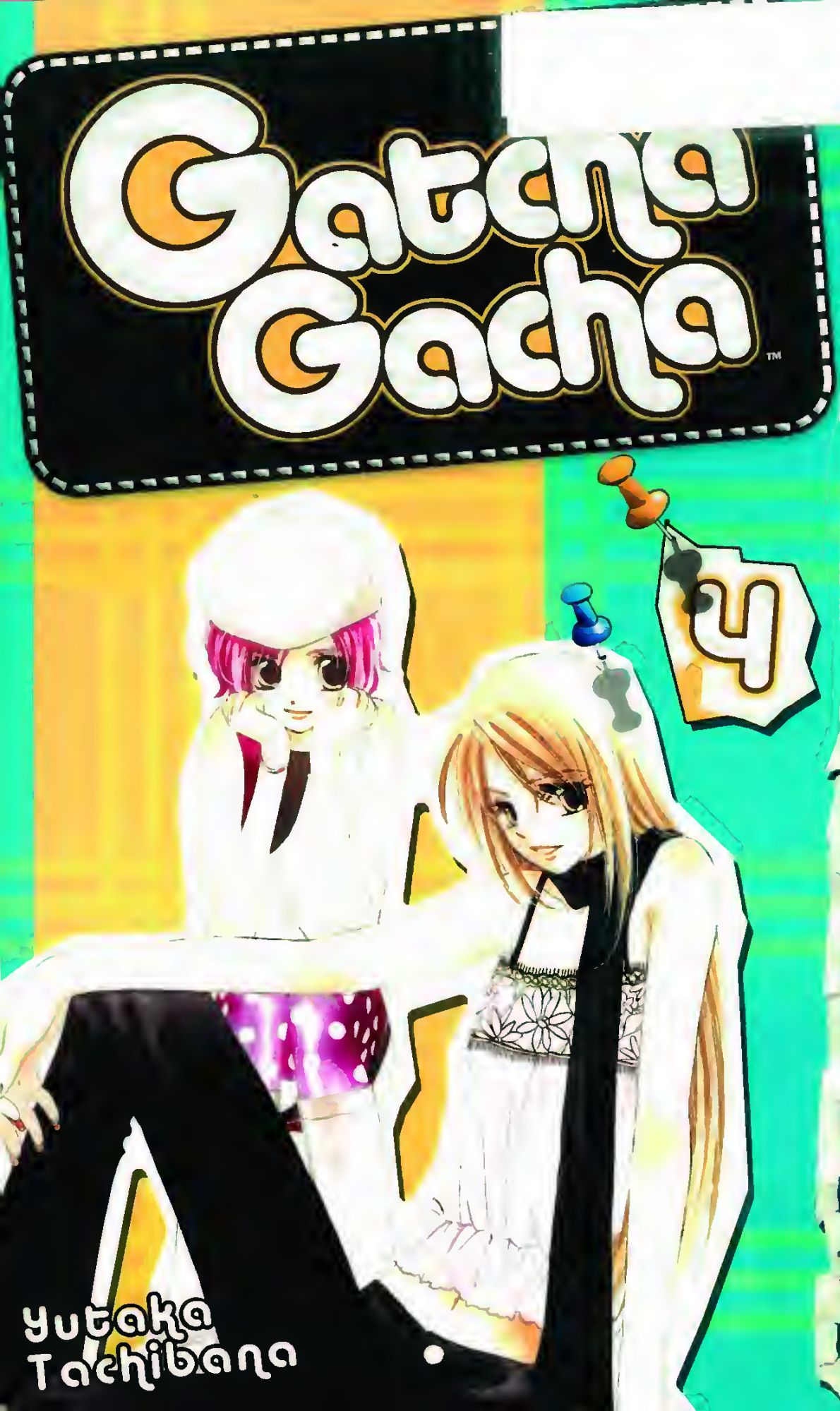
Gatcha Gacha™



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Yutaka Tachibana

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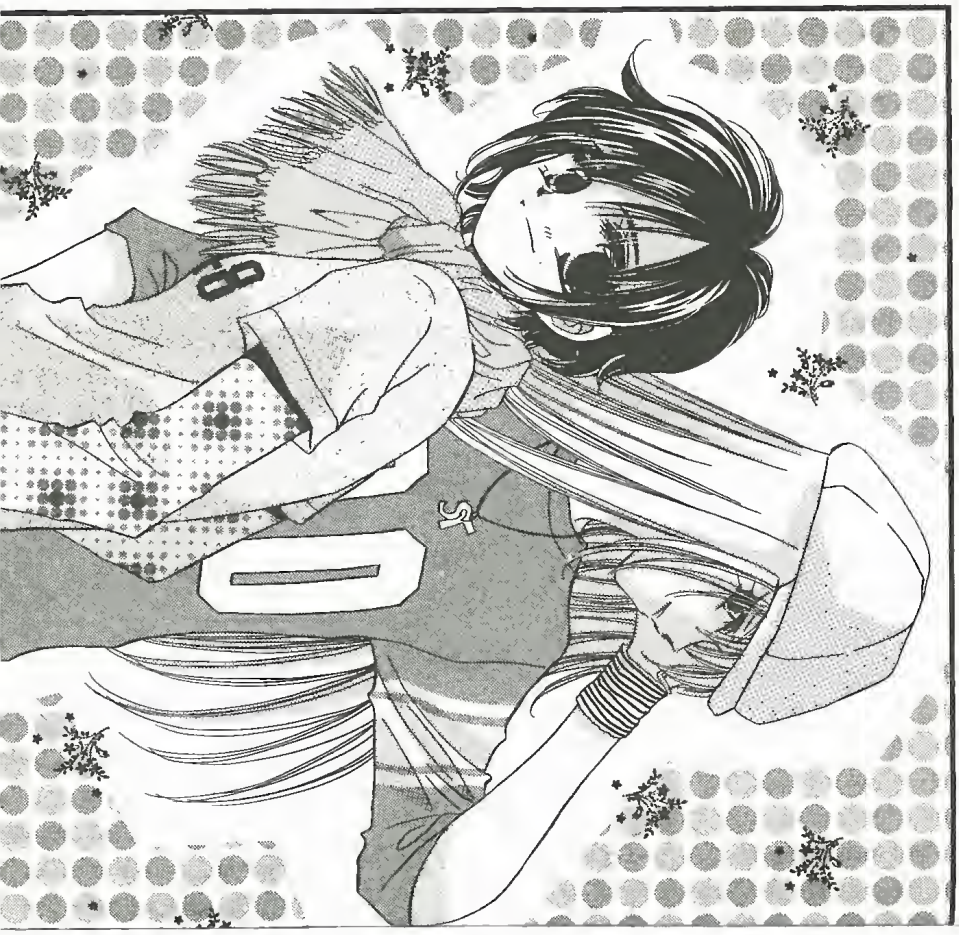

Gacha Gacha

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by Yutaka Tachibana

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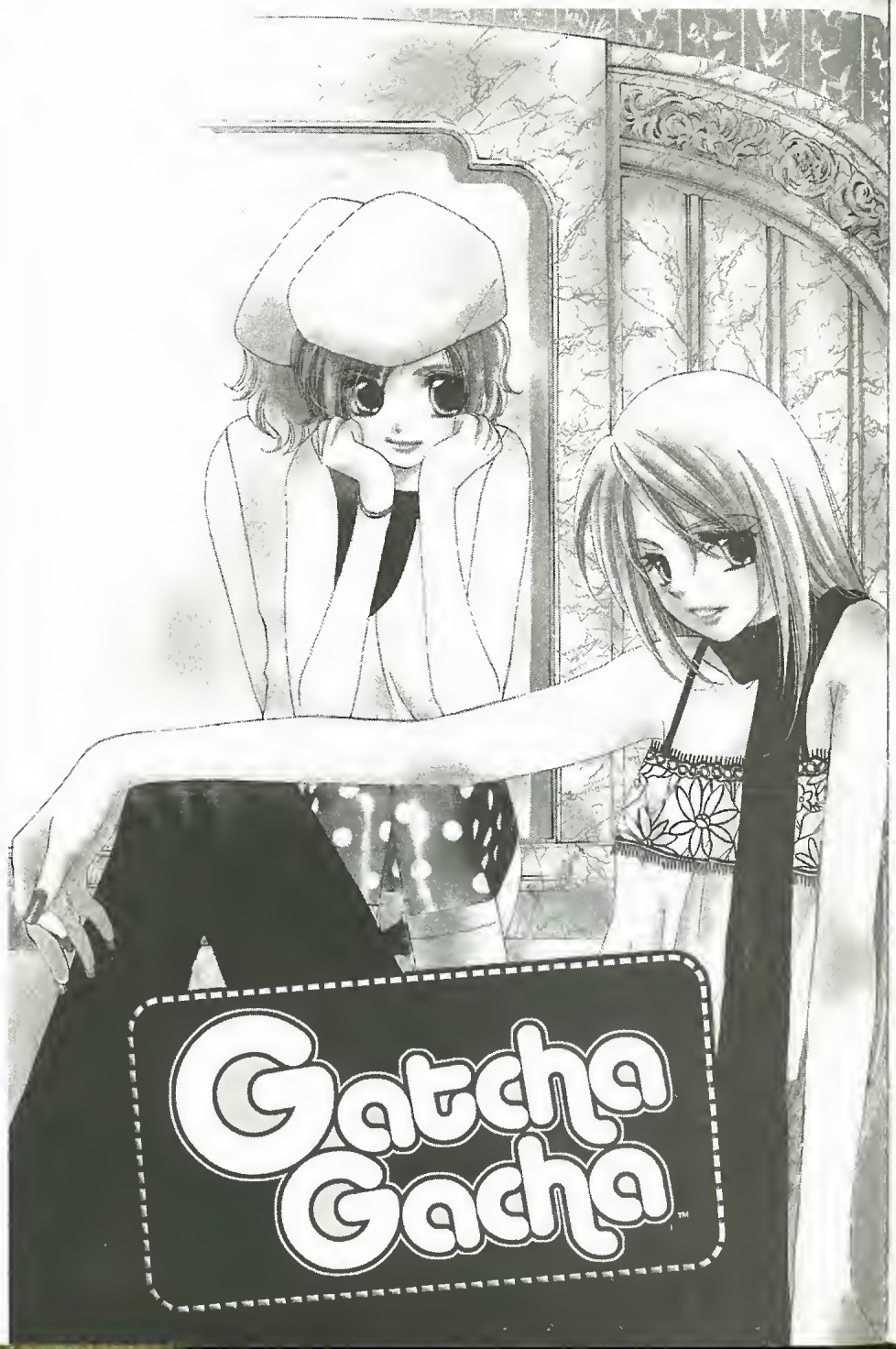
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Movie recommendations for Volume 4!

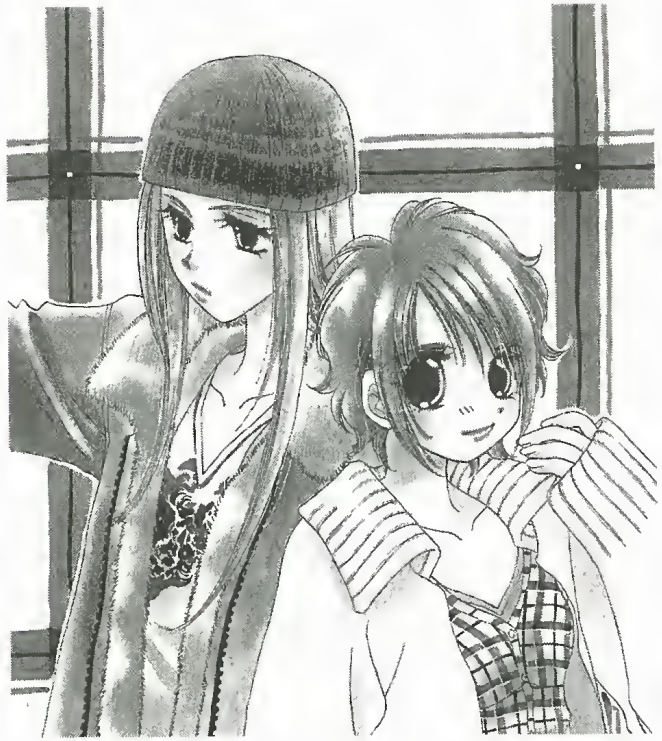
The Frighteners (1996)

The first Hollywood film from Peter Jackson, director of *Lord of the Rings*. There's even a Nazgul in it! I swear, if you rent the DVD, you'll see a Nazgul!!

The characters are really well done. That seems to be one of Peter Jackson's strengths.

The Frighteners stars Michael J. Fox. Yet another actor I'd love to see return to the silver screen.

Don't give up, Michael!!



THEIR RELATIONSHIP HAS BEEN OFFICIAL FOR A WEEK.
You rock, Yuri.
I DITCHED HER ON THE WAY HERE!
HAH!
BY THE WAY, WHERE'S MOTOKO?
She never misses lunch.
I MADE ALL YOUR FAVORITES!
ARE YOU READY TO EAT?
HM?

I TOLD YOU TO STOP CALLING ME THAT!
Did she call him "darling"?
Poor guy.
B-but...
THIS WAY THE WHOLE SCHOOL... THE WHOLE WORLD...
...WILL KNOW WE'RE GOING STEADY!
C'mon... "darling"?!
Everyone in class should know.
TRUST ME. THEY KNOW.
LOOK... FROM NOW ON, I'LL JUST MEET YOU AT LUNCH AND AFTER SCHOOL.
?
But...!
I HATE WAITING FOR YOU.
YOU'LL LIVE. BESIDES, IT'S WHAT WE AGREED ON.
THANK GOD HIRAO ISN'T HERE.
HIS WOUNDS ARE TOO RAW TO SEE US LIKE THIS.
Still not much of a long-term solution...
SENPAI!

I GOT UP AT FOUR A.M. TO MAKE THAT BENTO!
HANDS OFF! THAT'S FOR HIRAO-KUN.
WHOA, HEY! A BENTO?
EEP!
OOOH, LOOKS GOOD! GIMME!
HEY! WAIT!
Ah!
STILL AT IT, MR. PREZ?
IT'S LIKE HE'S... PUNISHING HIMSELF.
JUST ONE BITE. YOU DON'T MIND, DO YOU, MR. PREZ?
I MADE IT FOR THE EXPRESS PURPOSE OF CHEERING UP HIRAO-KUN.
YOU ARE COMPLETELY UNWORTHY OF MY COOKING!
NO MEANS NO!
SOME-ONE'S STINGY!
C'MON...
HANADA'S GOT A CRUSH ON YOU.
HEY, HIRAO...
.....
Should she blush or blanch...?
JUST WHAT THE HELL DO YOU THINK YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT?!
...AREN'T YOU A LITTLE YOUNG TO BE PLAYING HIS MOTHER?

AND PRESIDENT HIRAO HASN'T LEFT HIS STUDY SINCE THE NEWS LEAKED.
TAKATAKATAKATAKA
HE'S BEEN WORKING LIKE A MAN POSSESSED.
HE'S REALLY ACTING...
...KIND OF SCARY.
TAKATAKA
HE WAS BUSY ENOUGH BEFORE.
...STUFF THAT'S ASAI'S WORK, NOT YOURS. WHAT ABOUT YOUR OWN LIFE?
YOU BARELY LEAVE FOR KENDO, YOU'VE BEEN DOING ALL THESE ODD JOBS...
UM... HIRAO-KUN? WHY DON'T YOU TAKE A BREAK?

I CAN'T SAVE HIM.
ONLY SHE CAN DO THAT NOW.
H-HEY...
Sheesh.
I'M TRYING TO WORK.
WHAT'S EATING YOU, MR. PREZ?
I CAN'T DO IT.

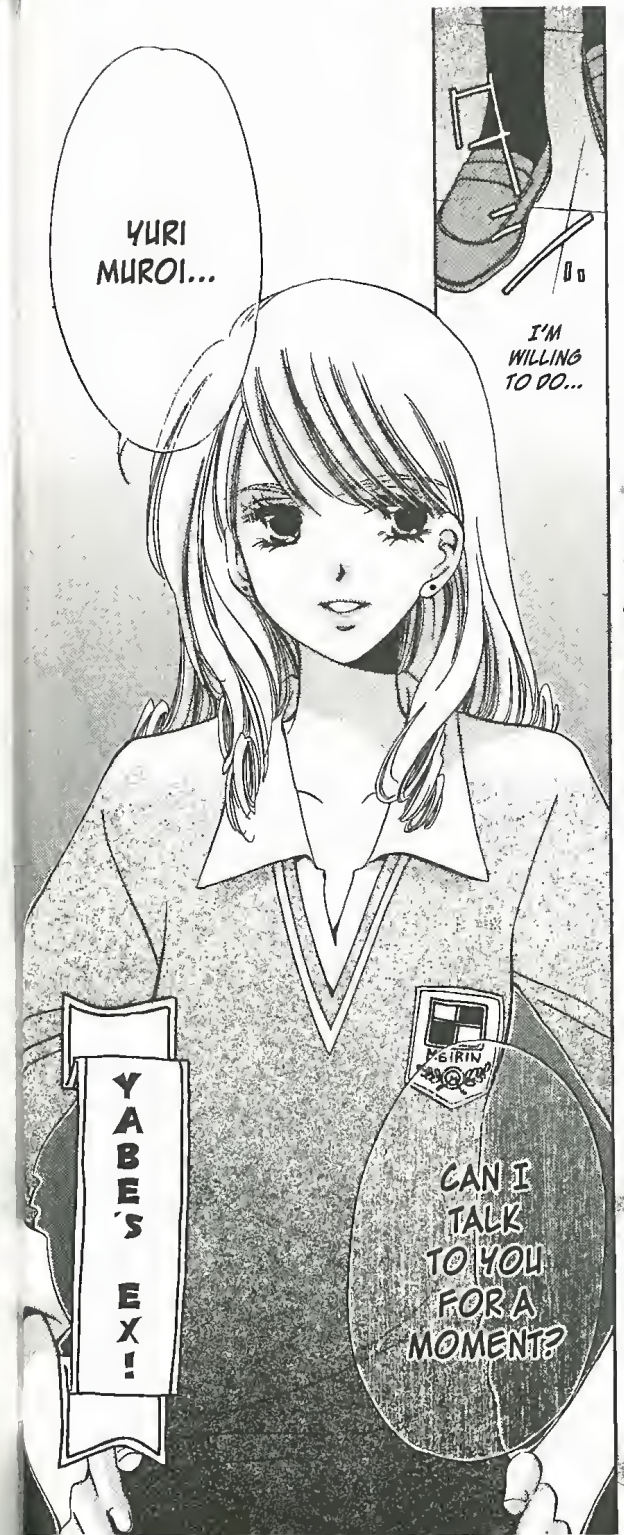
WHAT ARE WE, TWELVE?!
TAKATAKATAKATAKATAKA...
TAKATAKATAKATA
You're the perfect beauty vs brains couple.
Shut up!
LESS TALKING, MORE KISSING.
HANADA, ASAI...
Die!!!
I was kidding!
IF YOU DON'T HAVE ANYTHING BETTER TO DO...
...WOULD YOU PLEASE LEAVE?

LIKE A REAL DATE?!
DAMMIT! NO MORE DOUBLE-SHOT ESPRESSO.
HIS SHOULDERS...
GUESS ONE SHOT WILL HAVE TO DO.
He's so tall...
...ARE SO BROAD.
BE AFRAID
AND HE'S ALLL MINE!
UM, YURI? YOU'RE EYEING ME LIKE A DOG EYEING A PORK CHOP.
BIG, STRONG HANDS...
LONG LEGS...
...HUH?
HE'S SO...MANLY.

Sigh...
YOU WANTED AN ALOE DRINK, RIGHT, YURI?
SHE
BARELY CAPABLE OF SAVING HERSELF
I'M SUPER-DUPER HAPPY WITH WHATEVER YOU GET!!
Yeah!
YES!
...YURI?
BATHUMP
...I'LL TREAT YOU TO SOMETHING MORE PROPER.
YABE-SENPAI...
...IS BEING NICER THAN EVER.
AND SOON...
AS THANKS FOR THE BENTO.
HERE YOU GO.
OOH! THANK YOU!
She's so weird..
"SUPER-DUPER"?
...SINCE WE STARTED DATING.
KATHUNK
IT'S BEEN A WEEK ...

AH...
AKI...?
ARE YOU DEAF? LET'S TALK. NOW. ALONE.

HEY WHOA! HOLD IT!
...WHATEVER IT TAKES.
THIS IS BETWEEN ME AND HER.
NO BOYS ALLOWED.
HEY!
LET'S SETTLE THIS, ONCE AND FOR ALL.
WHAT?!
I THOUGHT WE ALREADY SETTLED THIS!
WELL, FORGET IT. IF YOU HAVE A PROBLEM, TALK TO ME!
I'VE SETTLED IT WITH YOU, BUT NOT WITH HER!
SENPAI, PLEASE. JUST ENJOY YOUR LUNCH.


YURI MUROI...
I'M WILLING TO DO...
YABE'S EX!
CAN I TALK TO YOU FOR A MOMENT?

YOU'RE A REAL FRUIT, YOU KNOW THAT?
OH! UM... I WAS JUST THINKING HOW COOL YOU ARE!
I DON'T MIND BEING A FRUIT...
...AS LONG AS IT'S ON YOUR TREE.

Motoko still hasn't found us. Nice evasion!
I ran the whole way here.
THIS IS GONNA LAST.

I TRUST THAT THE TWO OF US...
...CAN COME TO... AN UNDER-STANDING.
You're a big girl now, Yuri.
EVEN IF I HAVE TO FLATTEN SOME SPEED BUMPS ALONG THE WAY.
NOD
TMP TMP
Wait!
TMP TMP TMP TMP TMP
WHY AM I JUST STANDING HERE? I HAVE TO STOP THEM!
HOLD IT RIGHT THERE, YOU TWO!
WHAT IS IT WITH ME AND THICK-HEADED WOMEN?
JUST LET 'EM DO IT.
GET BETWEEN THEM NOW AND THEY'LL RIP YOU TO SHREDS.
EH, MOTOKO?
Mph.
I SAW THE WHOLE THING.
I'VE BEEN HERE THE ENTIRE TIME.
HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN WATCHING US?
WHEN IT'S OVER, IT'S OVER.
IT'S JUST AN OLD-FASHIONED CATFIGHT.
Are you listening to yourself?

HE MAY BE A USELESS DORK, BUT HE'S A DAMN SIGHT BETTER THAN YOU.
YOU'RE GOING TO MAKE YURI CRY IN THE END. ONE HUNDRED PERCENT GUARANTEED.
...HUH?
HEY, YOU SAID IT, NOT ME.
ANYWAY, FOR THE TIME BEING...
...LET'S JUST SAY I'M ON HIRAO'S SIDE.

Y'KNOW, THE HUMAN RIGHTS ACT APPLIES TO YOU, TOO. YOU CAN'T ABUSE YOUR TOADY LIKE THAT.
I LET YURI THINK SHE HAD LOST ME, SO IF YOU TWO GOT OUT OF HAND...
Lackey #1
Sekine
...I COULD SEND MY NUMBER ONE LACKEY IN TO BREAK IT UP.
Ugh, just saying that gives me the chills
YOU GOT A SECRET CRUSH ON ME OR SOMETHING?
ANYWAY, WHY DO YOU WANT TO BREAK US UP SO BADLY?
HANG ON!
.....
POT, MEET KETTLE.
CLASSIC MOTOKO.
IF IT WERE YOU I WANTED, WE WOULDN'T BE IN THIS MESS. I'D HAVE YOU.
HUH?!
AND I CAN'T BELIEVE THOSE LONG, CURVY LEGS BELONG TO NURSE PERV!
But... that's so...!
NO WAY!
IT'S TRUE!
mumble
DAMN, YAGI-SENPAI IS CUTE.

A FEW WORDS.

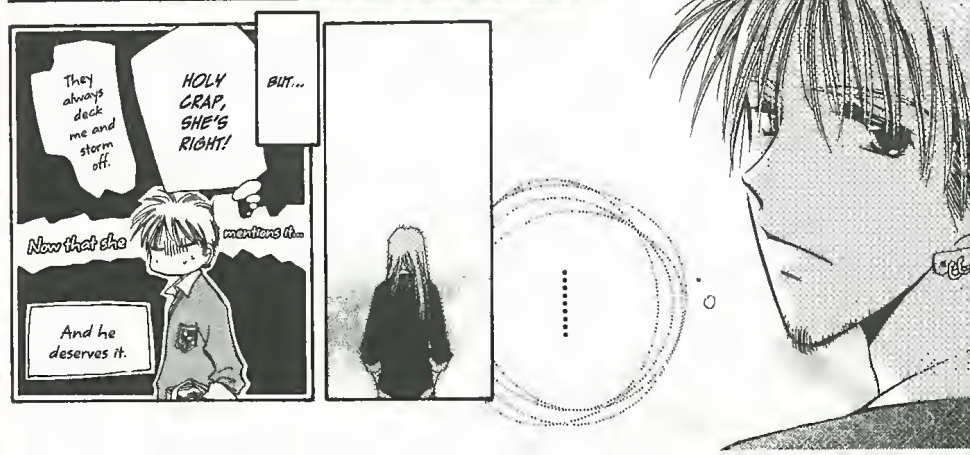
Hello, everyone! Yutaka Tachibana here. Thank you so much for picking up a copy of my latest manga. This is, what, my 35th volume, not counting novels? Something like that!

It's been 10 years since I started drawing manga. If I'd gotten a dog or a cat back when I started, it'd be ready to die of old age by now. (Hey! What's with the morbid example?!) I'd like to aim for at least another 10 years as a manga artist. Sigh... (What are you sighing for?!)

While long-term goals are all well and good, there's something I'd like to deal with quicker. You see, I've got this really bad habit of chewing on my nails while I'm thinking. It gets particularly nasty when I try to come up with names for characters. I need to break this habit, but just can't seem to do it. I caught myself with my fingers in my mouth just the other day. And I'd just gotten a manicure! Why? Why can't I stop biting them?! Am I just an idiot? Am I completely infantile at heart? WHY?!

Waaah! I'm so pathetically weak-willed!

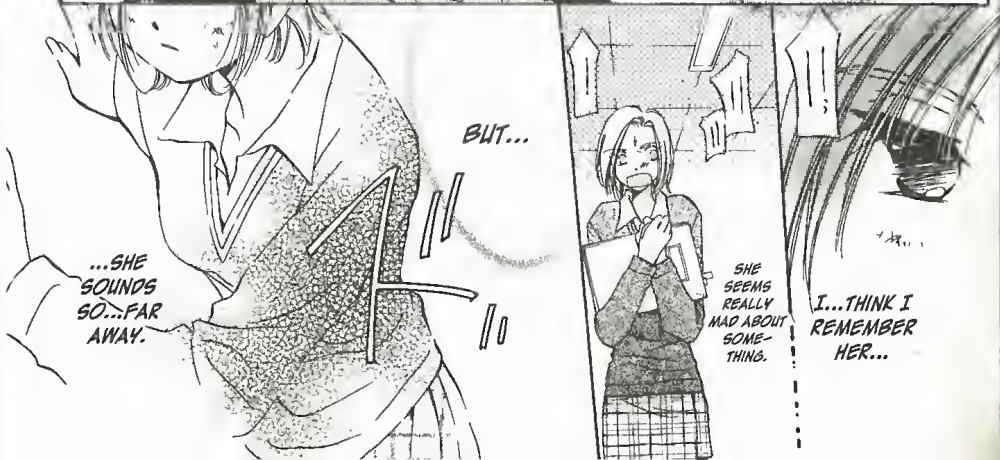
NO WAY COULD A LOSER LIKE YOU MAKE A WOMAN HAPPY. IT'S PHYSICALLY IMPOSSIBLE!
HOW DENSE CAN YOU BE? WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME YOU ENDED ANY RELATIONSHIP WELL?
MOTOKO! WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO SAY?
Crap! It's time for class!!



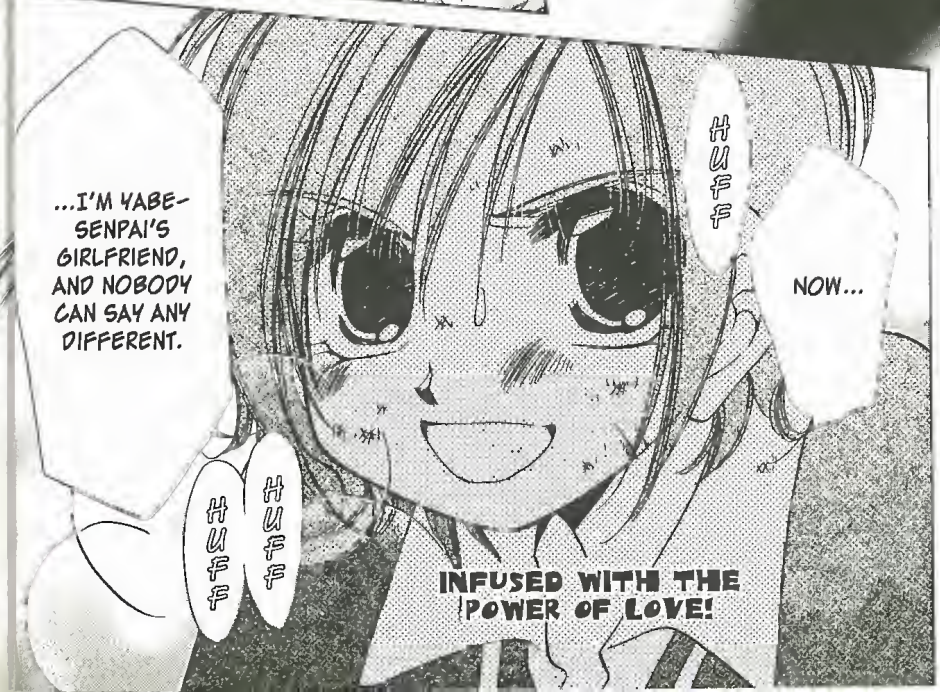
HM?
OH MY GOD! WHAT THE HECK HAPPENED TO YOU?!
You're a wreck!
WH-WHA?

HUH?
THAT'S WEIRD. MY VISION'S GETTING FUZZY...

DO I... KNOW HER...?


BUT...
...SHE SOUNDS SO...FAR AWAY.
SHE SEEMS REALLY MAD ABOUT SOMETHING.
I...THINK I REMEMBER HER...

I...
I...
...WON!
I WON'T MAKE THE SAME MISTAKE AGAIN.


...I'M YABE-SENPAI'S GIRLFRIEND, AND NOBODY CAN SAY ANY DIFFERENT.
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
NOW...
INFUSED WITH THE POWER OF LOVE!

EACH CLASS MUST HAVE A BACK-UP PLAN.
...IN OTHER WORDS, THOSE PLANNING TO SERVE HOT FOOD. THESE CLASSES WILL NEED TO MAINTAIN CONSTANT CONTACT WITH THE APPROPRIATE PROFESSIONALS, AND WILL BE ASKED TO CHANGE PROJECTS IF THERE IS THE SLIGHTEST HINT OF TROUBLE.
NEXT, CLASSES PLANNING ON USING STOVES OR BURNERS...
EACH CLASS SHOULD TAKE INVENTORY AND STOCK UP WITH MACHINES FROM HOME.
MORE FAMILIES OWN PERSONAL DIGITAL AND VIDEO CAMERAS NOWADAYS, SO GETTING THE EQUIPMENT SHOULDN'T BE A PROBLEM.
NOW, I'D LIKE TO GO OVER OUR AGENDA FOR THE NEXT PLANNING MEETING.
HANADA?
...MR. PRESIDENT.
HANADA APPEARS TO BE MISSING...
WELL, CRAP.
I ASKED HANADA TO PHOTOCOPY THAT AGENDA.
UH...NO, NOTHING. FORGET IT.
COMPLETELY OBLIVIOUS
WHAT? DID SOMETHING HAPPEN?
I THINK A CERTAIN SOMEONE'S COLDNESS HAS MADE HER TOO UPSET TO SHOW UP.
jab, jab

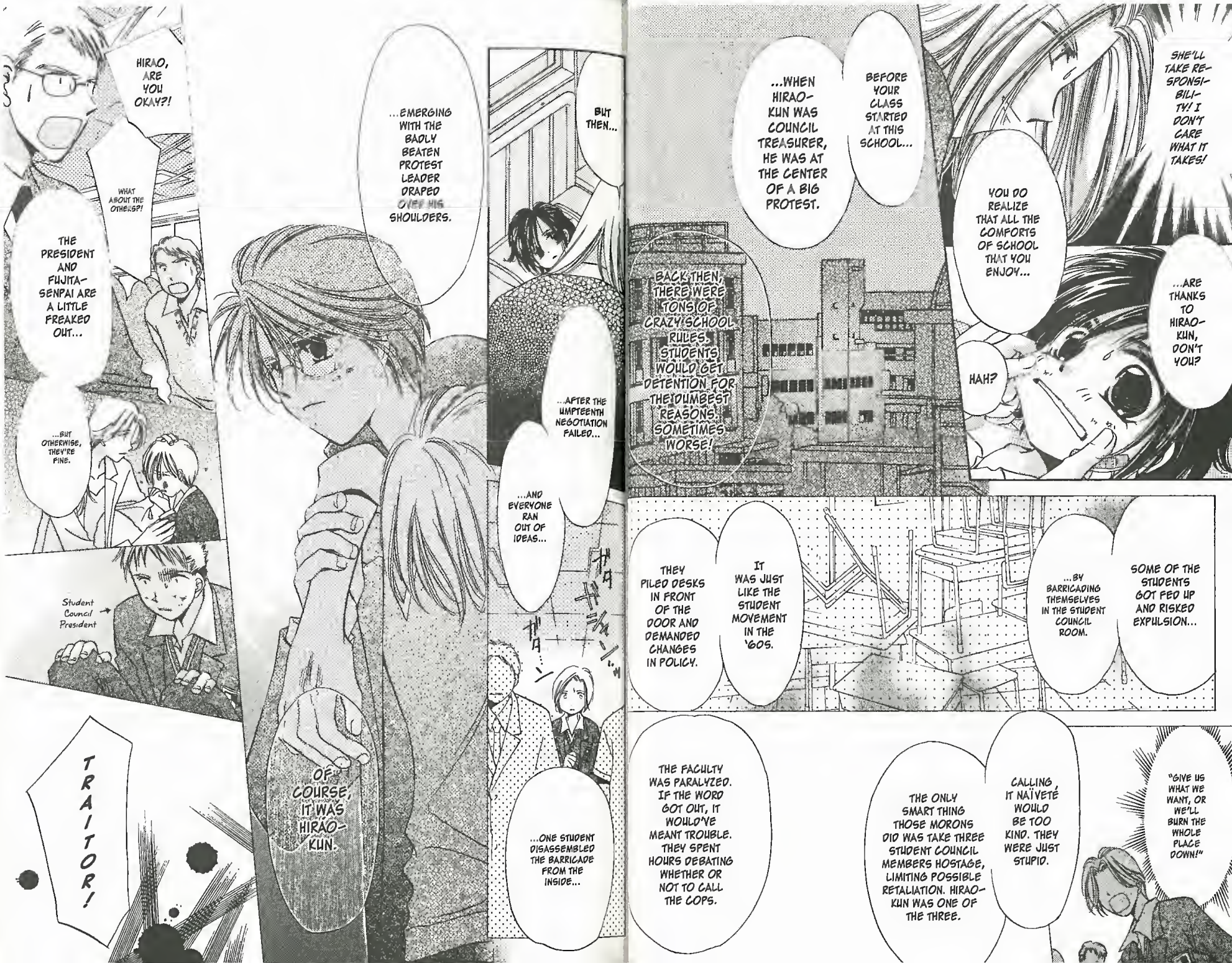
KYAAAAAAAA!!
I CAN'T... HEAR...
THUD
...EACH CLASS WILL NOMINATE TWO REPRESENTATIVES.
LAST YEAR WE FELL SHORT, AND A COUPLE OF CLASSES GOT LEFT OUT.
DO WE HAVE ENOUGH CAMERAS AND VIDEO MONITORS?
AND IN ADDITION, EACH CLASS WILL APPOINT TWO OR THREE STUDENTS TO PERFORM AUDIO-VISUAL DUTIES, SETTING UP AND RUNNING EQUIPMENT FOR THE CULTURE FESTIVAL'S VIDEO PROJECTIONS.

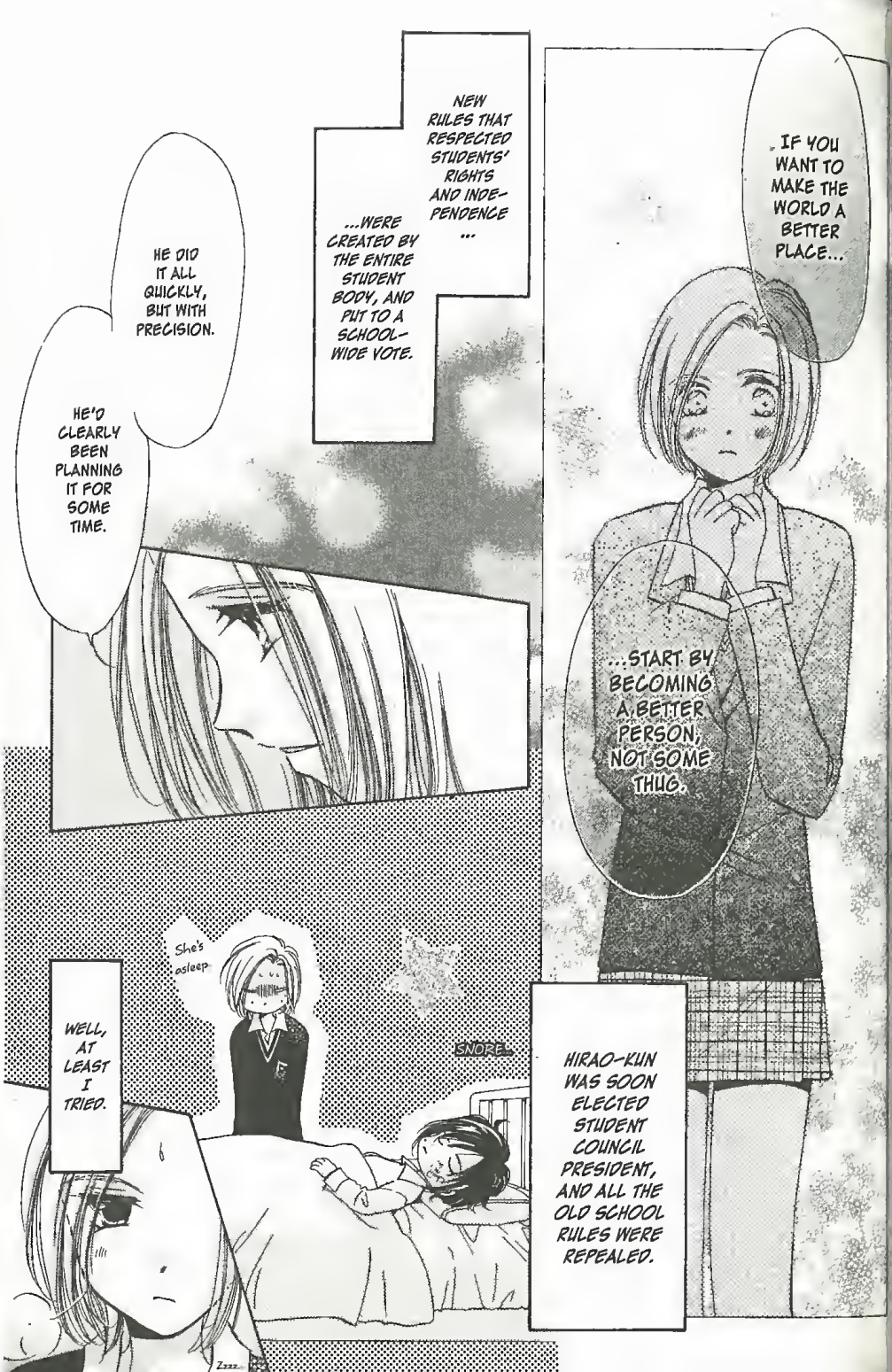
IT'S STILL ALL TOO CLEAR IN MY MIND...
WELL, THEN...
...I, AS TREASURER, WILL TAKE OVER AS CHAIR FOR THIS MEETING.
...SINCE THE PRESIDENT HAS BECOME UTTERLY USELESS, AND THE VICE PRESIDENT IS NOT PRESENT...
Culture Festival Agenda
mutter
He's been acting weird
Who knows?
What's bugging Hiroe?
mutter
What?

I'M COMPLETELY BEAT. I'VE BEEN TOO BUSY TO GET MUCH SLEEP.
STOPPING WOULD MEAN DEATH.
IF I KEEP GOING, IT'S EASIER TO FORGET.

IT'S LIKE HE'S DEAD INSIDE. HE'S JUST EMPTILY GOING THROUGH THE MOTIONS.
...BUT I HAVE TO DO SOMETHING. I CAN'T IGNORE HIRAO-KUN'S BROKEN HEART.
" OOOKAY... BUT WHAT BUSINESS IS IT OF HERS?
Man, I'm sleepy...
I KNOW THIS IS STUPID...
AND IT'S ALL...
...BECAUSE OF HER.
I JUST KNOW IT!
AND ALL BECAUSE SHE HOOKED UP WITH THAT TAKAHIRO YABE CREEP!
Hey!
NO FALLING ASLEEP!
I'M NOT DONE YET!
SMAK
WHA...?!
Gak!

INFIRMARY
SO YOU SEE...
...HIRAO-KUN EXCELS AT BOTH SPORTS AND ACADEMICS. HE COULD HAVE HIS CHOICE OF GIRLS AROUND HERE.
HE'S INCREDIBLE. THEY DON'T MAKE THEM LIKE HIM VERY OPTEN. SURE, HE CAN BE A BIT UPPITY, BUT HE'S ALWAYS NICE TO OTHER KIDS AND NEVER A SUCK-UP.
IT'S IN HIS BLOOD, THOUGH. HE LOVES TO HELP PEOPLE AND IS ALWAYS FIRST TO VOLUNTEER FOR THE TOUGH JOBS.
HE COMES FROM A FAMILY OF DOCTORS, THOUGH HE HASN'T ANNOUNCED IF HE'LL BECOME ONE, AS WELL.
UM...
I REALLY APPRECIATE YOUR HELPING ME OUT...
BECAUSE FOR SOMEONE SO RECKLESS WITH HIS FEELINGS, YOU KNOW VERY LITTLE ABOUT HIM.
...BUT WHY ARE YOU TELLING ME THE LEGEND OF PRESIDENT HIRAO?

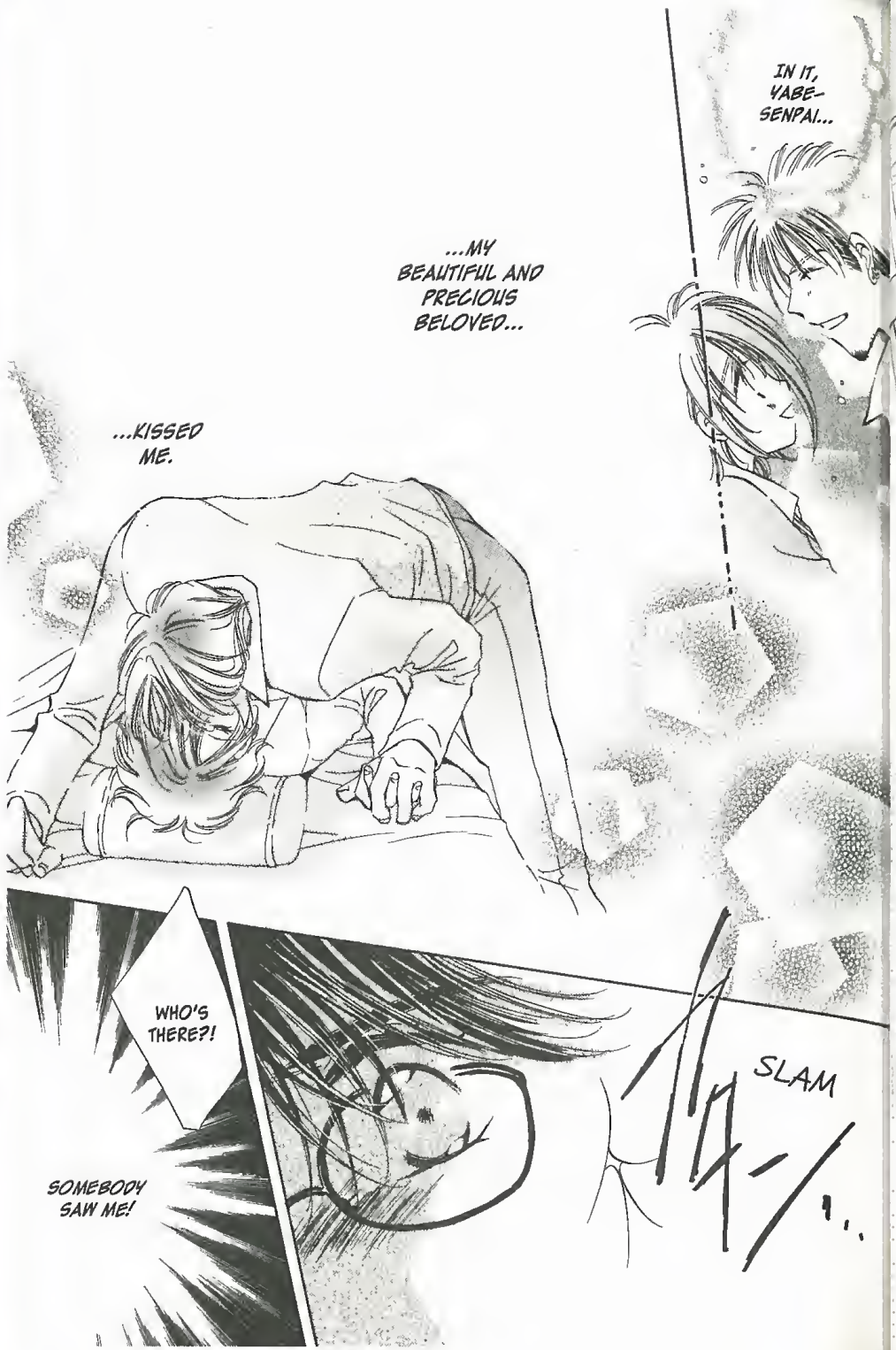

HIRAO, ARE YOU OKAY?!
WHAT ABOUT THE OTHERS?!
THE PRESIDENT AND FUJITA-SENPAI ARE A LITTLE FREAKED OUT...
...BUT OTHERWISE, THEY'RE FINE.
Student Council President
TRAITOR!
OF COURSE, IT WAS HIRAO-KUN.
...EMERGING WITH THE BADLY BEATEN PROTEST LEADER DRAPED OVER HIS SHOULDERS.
BUT THEN...
...AFTER THE UMPTEENTH NEGOTIATION FAILED...
...AND EVERYONE RAN OUT OF IDEAS...
...ONE STUDENT DISASSEMBLED THE BARRICADE FROM THE INSIDE...
THE FACULTY WAS PARALYZED. IF THE WORD GOT OUT, IT WOULD'VE MEANT TROUBLE. THEY SPENT HOURS DEBATING WHETHER OR NOT TO CALL THE COPS.
THE ONLY SMART THING THOSE MORONS DID WAS TAKE THREE STUDENT COUNCIL MEMBERS HOSTAGE, LIMITING POSSIBLE RETALIATION. HIRAO-KUN WAS ONE OF THE THREE.
CALLING IT NAÏVETÉ WOULD BE TOO KIND. THEY WERE JUST STUPID.
"GIVE US WHAT WE WANT, OR WE'LL BURN THE WHOLE PLACE DOWN!"
THEY PILED DESKS IN FRONT OF THE DOOR AND DEMANDED CHANGES IN POLICY.
IT WAS JUST LIKE THE STUDENT MOVEMENT IN THE '60S.
...BY BARRICADING THEMSELVES IN THE STUDENT COUNCIL ROOM.
SOME OF THE STUDENTS GOT FED UP AND RISKED EXPULSION...
BACK THEN, THERE WERE TONS OF CRAZY SCHOOL RULES. STUDENTS WOULD GET DETENTION FOR THE DUMBEST REASONS. SOMETIMES WORSE!
...WHEN HIRAO-KUN WAS COUNCIL TREASURER, HE WAS AT THE CENTER OF A BIG PROTEST.
BEFORE YOUR CLASS STARTED AT THIS SCHOOL...
HAH?
YOU DO REALIZE THAT ALL THE COMFORTS OF SCHOOL THAT YOU ENJOY...
...ARE THANKS TO HIRAO-KUN, DON'T YOU?
SHE'LL TAKE RESPONSIBILITY! I DON'T CARE WHAT IT TAKES!


IF YOU WANT TO MAKE THE WORLD A BETTER PLACE...
...START BY BECOMING A BETTER PERSON, NOT SOME THUG.
HIRAO-KUN WAS SOON ELECTED STUDENT COUNCIL PRESIDENT, AND ALL THE OLD SCHOOL RULES WERE REPEALED.
NEW RULES THAT RESPECTED STUDENTS' RIGHTS AND INDEPENDENCE ...
...WERE CREATED BY THE ENTIRE STUDENT BODY, AND PUT TO A SCHOOL-WIDE VOTE.
HE DID IT ALL QUICKLY, BUT WITH PRECISION.
HE'D CLEARLY BEEN PLANNING IT FOR SOME TIME.
She's asleep
SNORE
WELL, AT LEAST I TRIED.
Zzzz

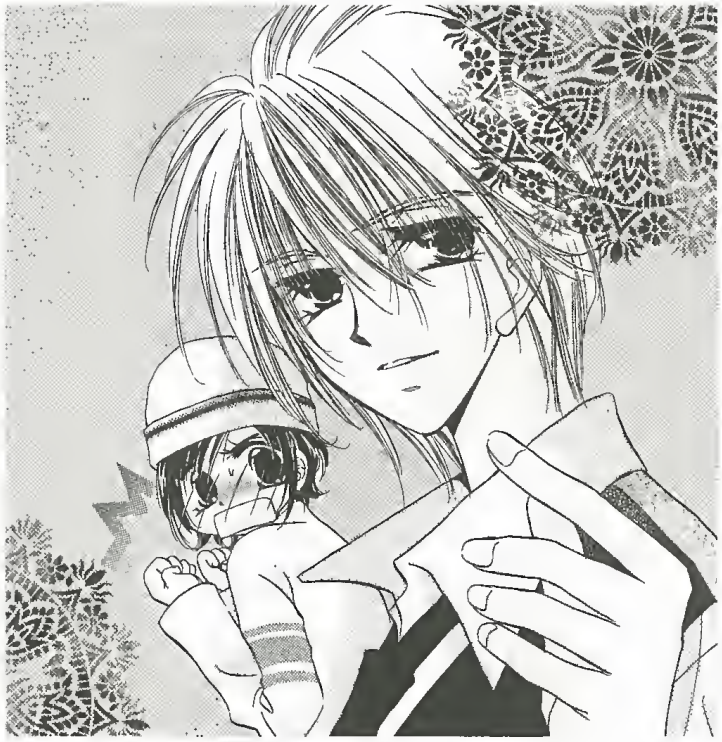
IF YOU WANT REAL CHANGE, YOU HAVE TO GO INTO THE BELLY OF THE BEAST.
SPINELESS BASTARD!
ALWAYS WAGGING YOUR TAIL FOR THE TEACHERS!
YOU'RE ALL COWARDS! YOU KNOW THEIR RULES SUCK, BUT YOU DON'T HAVE THE GUTS TO STAND UP FOR YOURSELVES!
ARE YOU THE BEST WE'VE GOT?! HA!
Quiet, you!
WHAAA...?!
IF YOU LOSE YOUR COOL, YOU LOSE THE GAME.
WORK WITH IT, RATHER THAN RAIL AGAINST IT.
OTHERWISE, YOU'LL NEVER CHANGE A THING.
MAYBE YOU'RE RIGHT TO DEMAND JUSTICE. BUT TO ACHIEVE IT, YOU HAVE TO LEARN BOTH SIDES OF THE ISSUE.

WHAT?!
!?
ZZZ
WHAT'S MUROI DOING HERE?!
OMIGOD OMIGOD OMIGOD!!
I HAVE TO CALM DOWN!
おお
ZZZZ...

IT'S GOING TO TAKE MORE THAN CONVINCING HER HIRAO-KUN IS COOL TO FIX THIS.
IT'S GETTING LATE.
LOVE IS NEVER SIMPLE, BUT I HOPE....
WHERE THE HECK...
...IS SHINJO-SENSEI?
...SHE HAS AT LEAST A LITTLE MORE UNDERSTANDING NOW.
FOR HIRAO-KUN'S SAKE...
SHINJO-SENSEI, IS IT ALL RIGHT IF I TAKE A QUICK NAP?
...HE'S NOT HERE?
OH WELL.
HE WON'T MIND IF I LIE DOWN.
I'M GETTING LIGHT-HEADED.


IN IT, YABE-SENPAI...
...MY BEAUTIFUL AND PRECIOUS BELOVED...
...KISSED ME.
WHO'S THERE?!
SOMEBODY SAW ME!
SLAM

AND BEING HERE IS NOT HELPING!
MMPH...
YABE... SEN... PAI...
ASLEEP IN THE NURSE'S OFFICE, I HAD A DREAM.
IT WAS AWESOME.



OH, GOD...

...NOT YABE!

I LOVE YOU, SENPAI.

mumble

HIRAO-KUN...DO YOU REALLY LOVE YURI MUROI THAT MUCH?

NYAHAHAHAHA!

psst

You devil!!

KAGURAZAKA-SAN, YOU *TIMED* THAT, DIDN'T YOU?!

Back in the hall...

psst

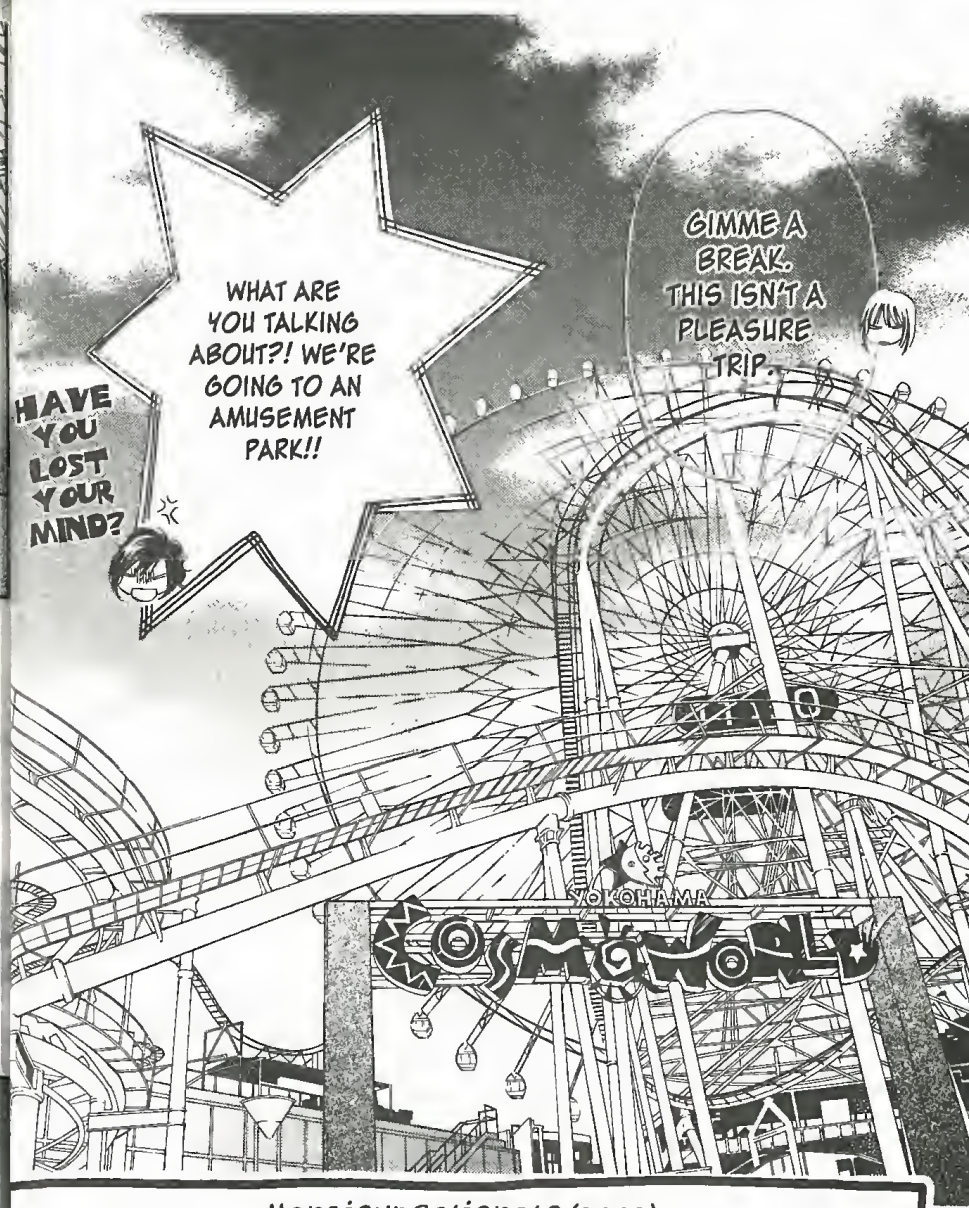
ARE YOU GONNA KEEP ME OUT HERE ALL DAY?!

psst

Gatcha Gacha
DO YOU HAVE NO HEART AT ALL ?!
YOU'RE NOT COMING.
YOU DEVIL!
WAAAAAAAAA
ヘルしん

ALL RIGHT, ALL RIGHT...
KAGURA-ZAKA-SAN!
PLEASE!
OW.
SHADDAP
OWW...
AAH...
WAAAAAAAAH
WAAAAAAAAH
sniff
STOMP
Look at the poor guy; he's crying!
COME ON, KAGURAZAKA-SAN, LET HIM COME. WHAT'S THE HARM?
WAAAAAAAAAAAAAAHH!!
NOOOOOO!
I WANT TO GO, TOO!
TAKE ME WITH YOU! PLEASE!!

YOU CAN BE SUCH A JERK.
YOU'RE ALWAYS SO CRUEL TO THE LITTLE GUY.
DUDE, IF HE WANTED TO COME ALONG SO BADLY, WHY DIDN'T YOU JUST LET HIM?
WAAAAAH!
Don't cry, Sekine-kun!
His crying made her cry.
YOU'VE REACHED A NEW LOW, LADY!
NO DOUBT! HE HAD BLOOD POURING OUT OF HIS NOSE, AND HE WAS BAWLING HIS EYES OUT! AND YOU STILL KEPT ABUSING HIM!
IF I'D LET HIM COME ALONG, IT WOULD HAVE SCREWED UP YOUR PLANS FOR A DOUBLE-DATE, YURI.
LIKE I CARE.


WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?! WE'RE GOING TO AN AMUSEMENT PARK!!
GIMME A BREAK. THIS ISN'T A PLEASURE TRIP.
HAVE YOU LOST YOUR MIND?
YOKOHAMA
COSMO WORLD

Monsieur Batignole (2002)

Set in Paris during the Nazi Occupation, this movie centers around a butcher named Mr. Batignole, a regular, average, middle-aged guy with normal problems, like going bald. One of his neighbors is a Jewish boy, and the story tells how Mr. Batignole winds up first hiding the boy, then eventually helping him escape the Nazis. Even though it's set in the darkest part of WWII, it isn't a blood-and-guts type of movie that bombards you with lots of shocking war scenes. Instead, it's a fairly quiet, heart-warming tale of courage and daring.

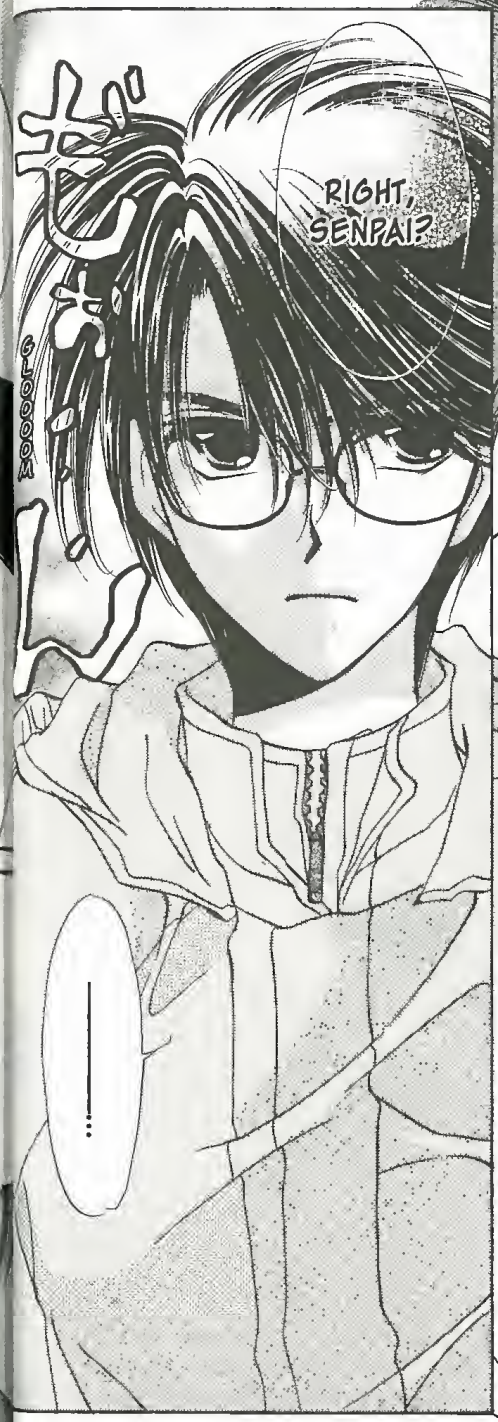
Oh, and the guy playing Mr. Batignole is awesome.

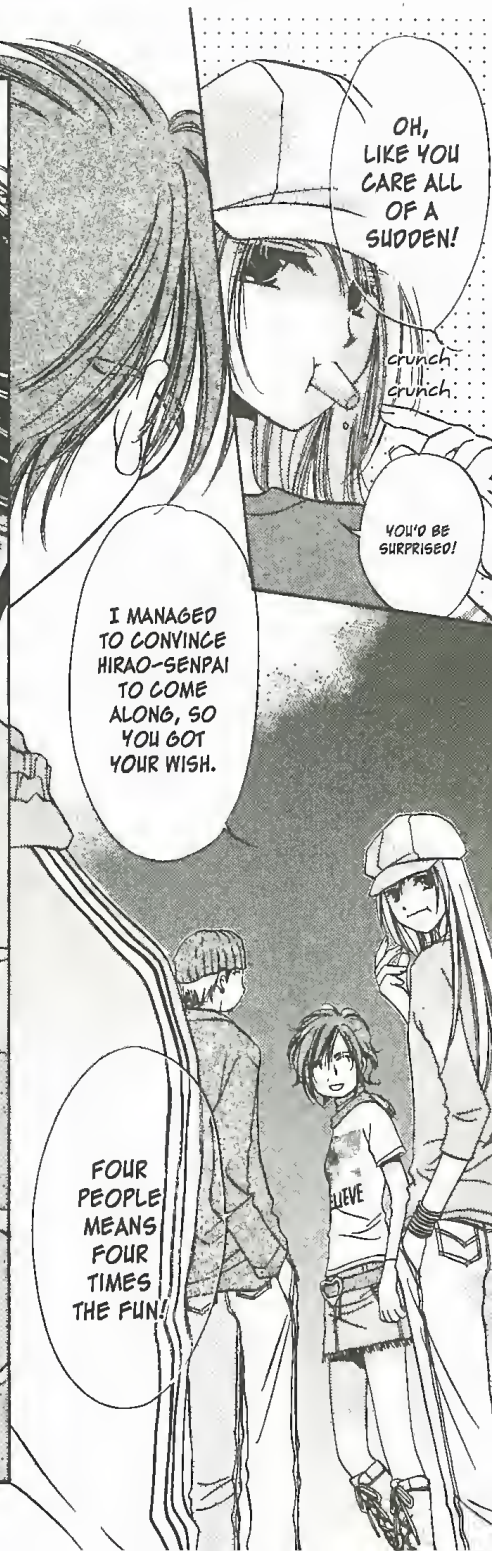
WHATEVER.
SURE.
WHAT'S WITH THOSE TWO?
Hey...
Pissing contest?
.....
.....
WHOA. TALK ABOUT TENSE!
I-I HAD SOMETHING I WANTED TO TALK TO YABE ABOUT, TOO.

.....
WHAT THE HECK IS THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?!
If anyone needs a little extra pity, it's you, you one-girl pity party!

YOU KNOW, YOU'RE THE ONE I HAVE THE MOST PITY FOR.
HUH?!

Dooo
DID SOMETHING HAPPEN BETWEEN THEM?


RIGHT, SENPAI?
SLOOOOOM
.....


OH, LIKE YOU CARE ALL OF A SUDDEN!
crunch crunch
YOU'D BE SURPRISED!
I MANAGED TO CONVINCE HIRAO-SENPAI TO COME ALONG, SO YOU GOT YOUR WISH.
FOUR PEOPLE MEANS FOUR TIMES THE FUN!

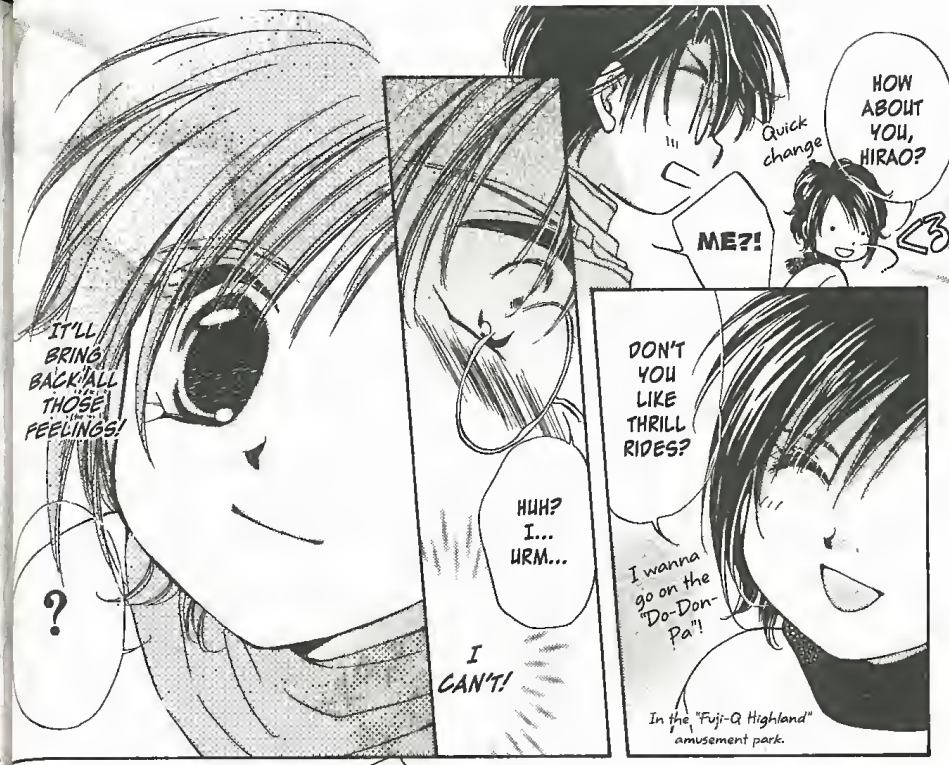
ZZZZZ
I-I-I...
!
CAUGHT IN THE ACT.
I-I'M SORRY...
BLUSH

WHEN I SAW HIM...
WHAT THE--?!
Dd
WHO'S THERE...?!
YABE...!

THIS ONE'S FOR YOU, YABE-SENPAI.
WHAT KIND OF RESPONSE WAS THAT? WHAT KIND OF BOYFRIEND AM I?
urk
WHAT'S WRONG? YOU'VE BEEN QUIET ALL DAY.
REALLY? S-SORRY.
HEY, LET'S GO ON ONE OF THE ROLLER COASTERS!
ACK! NO WAY!
COUNT ME OUT! TAKE MOTOKO INSTEAD.
WHAT?! DON'T BE SUCH A WIMP!
SORRY.
REALLY.
THAT'S FINE THEN!

--THE HELL...?
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU APOLOGIZING FOR?!
I WISH I KNEW...

...OF GUYS WHO HAVE SOMETHING TO HIDE.
SH-SHE KNOWS...!
Both have lots to hide!
EVERY THIRD WORD OUT OF YOUR MOUTHS IS AN APOLOGY! BOTH OF YOU!
YOU GUYS ARE WEIRD.
...urk...
くろっ
IDIOTS.
KYAAAAAA
I GUESS APOLOGIZING IS THE LAST RESORT....


IT'LL BRING BACK ALL THOSE FEELINGS!
?
HUH? I... URM...
I CAN'T!
Quick change
HOW ABOUT YOU, HIRAO?
ME?!
DON'T YOU LIKE THRILL RIDES?
I wanna go on the "Do-Don-Pa"!
In the "Fuji-Q Highland" amusement park.

munch munch
WHAT THE HELL IS WRONG WITH THE BOYS AROUND HERE?!
BOOH
NO THANKS...
WHAT I ALMOST DID TO HER...
HMMMMMM...
MORE THAN YOU KNOW.
I'M SORRY...

Aki (Haven't thought of a last name for her yet)

She's kind of like a representation of all of Yabe's ex-girlfriends. The kind of girl who wears jewelry and does her hair up just to go to school, she's not afraid to show off her beauty or her power.

As if this manga didn't have enough strong-minded, powerful women in it, even the bit parts are full of them! Kinda makes the weakness of the guys all more the striking, doesn't it?

I hardly know what to do anymore...

Since Aki tends to jump into love and relationships with sheer overwhelming force, she's not the type to hang around in a clique. Instead, she's the lone-wolf sort, handling all of her battles one-on-one.

While she's a little on the violent side, I think I'd like to show more of her complexities in the future.

YAAA

I GUESS EVERYBODY'S DIFFERENT.
WHEN I'M REALLY AND TRULY SCARED, MY VOICE JUST...
...GETS STUCK IN MY THROAT OR SOMETHING.
SHUT UP!
KYAAAA
WYAAA
voom
UMMM...
ABOUT YABE-SENPAI...
...HE STILL LOVES KANAKO-SAN MORE THAN ME?
DO YOU THINK...
BELIEVE
30

QUESTION.
WHY DIDN'T YOU SCREAM ON THE ROLLER-COASTER?
HUH?
You don't know?
I DID, DIDN'T I?
YOUR FACE WAS SCREWED UP INTO THIS REALLY UGLY EXPRESSION AND YOU LOOKED LIKE YOU SHOULD BE SCREAMING YOUR LUNGS OUT, BUT YOU WEREN'T MAKING A SOUND.
Rollercoasters are the best ever!
I'M MORE OF AN INWARD SCREAMING KIND OF GIRL. I CAN'T SCREAM OUT.
No!
WERE YOU SCREAMING AT A SUPER-HIGH FREQUENCY ONLY DOGS CAN HEAR OR SOMETHING?
YOU CAN'T OR YOU WON'T?
SO YOU'VE ALWAYS BEEN WEIRD, EH?
Hmph.
CAN'T. ONCE, WHEN I WAS A KID, I GOT ATTACKED BY A STRAY DOG. IT WAS SCARY, BUT I DIDN'T MAKE A PEEP.
TOO SCARED TO SCREAM. LITTLE YURI FIGHTS IN SILENCE.
30

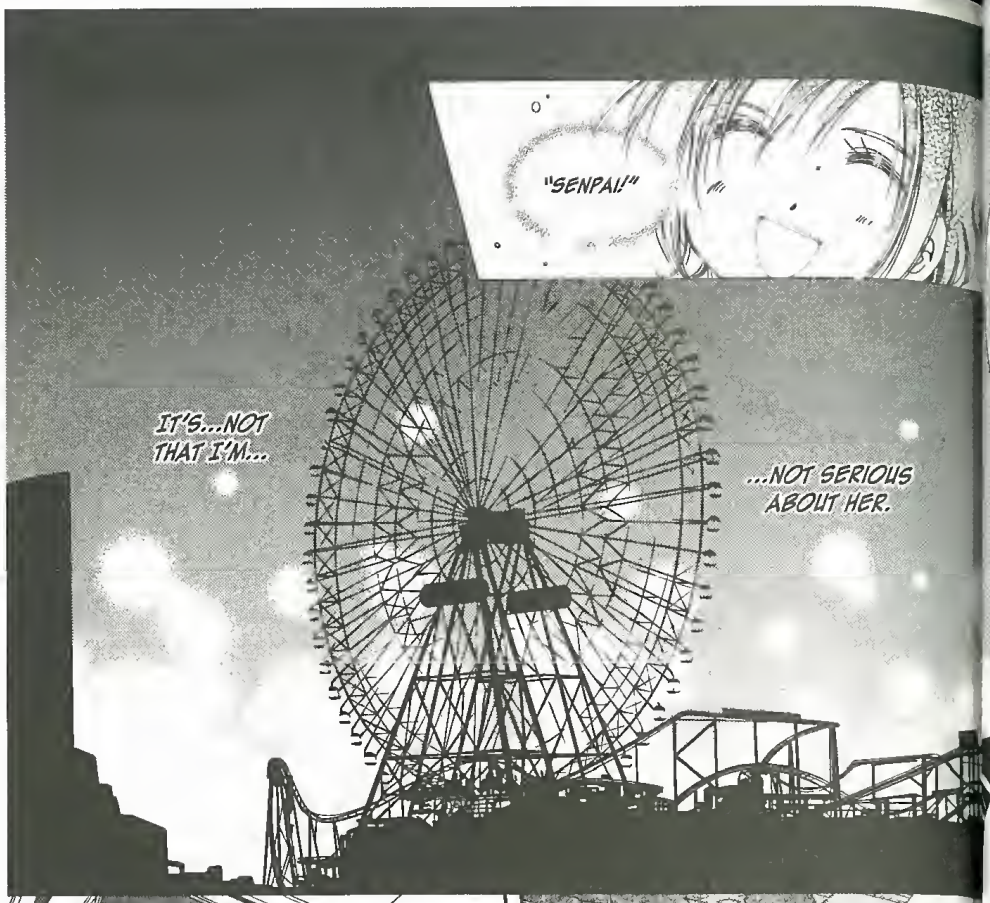
SHE NEVER CAN BE, NOT AS LONG AS YABE KEEPS HER ALIVE IN HIS HEART.
WHAA--?!
Eep...
HE HASN'T FALLEN OUT OF LOVE WITH HER AT ALL...
I guess, why would he?
God, it's hot...
DUH. THINK ABOUT IT. HE COULDN'T EVEN GO TO HER FUNERAL.
WHAT?
SHE STABBED HIM, REMEMBER? HE WAS STILL IN THE HOSPITAL WHEN SHE DIED.
THE ATTACK, HER FUNERAL... EVERYTHING WAS OVER AND DONE WITH WHILE HE WAS FLAT ON HIS BACK.
HE NEVER GOT TO SEE THE BODY.
HER DEATH CAN'T SEEM VERY REAL TO HIM. HE NEVER SAID GOOD-BYE, AND SO THE ROMANCE ISN'T OVER.
UNLESS SHE ACTUALLY ISN'T DEAD.
I KNOW THERE'S NOTHING I CAN DO ABOUT IT. KANAKO-SAN IS DEAD, AND I CAN'T COMPETE.
HE HASN'T TOLD ME HE LOVES ME.
...IT'S HARD NOT TO BE INSECURE.
I KNOW HE'S NEVER GOING TO FORGET HER COMPLETELY.
AND I DON'T EXPECT TO BE THE MOST IMPORTANT THING IN HIS LIFE RIGHT OFF THE BAT, BUT...
HE HASN'T SAID IT YET.

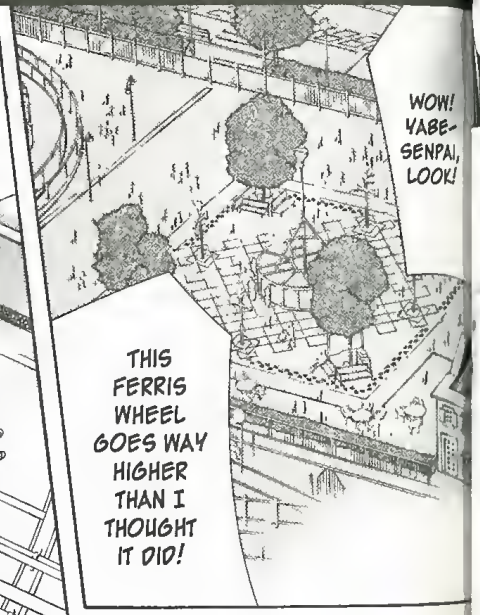
I ALREADY WARNED YOU ONCE NOT TO MAKE MUROI CRY.
YOU MEAN LIKE TAKING ADVANTAGE OF HER WHILE SHE'S ASLEEP? I BET KNOWING THAT WOULD MAKE HER CRY.
FINE! PUNCH ME IN THE FACE AND GET IT OVER WITH!!!
ANOTHER MAN WAS MOLESTING YOUR GIRLFRIEND RIGHT IN FRONT OF YOU!
YEAH. SORRY 'BOUT THAT.
BUT HOW WAS YOUR RESPONSE ANY BETTER? YOU LEFT ME THERE. IT'S BEYOND UNFORGIVABLE!
I KNOW IT WAS WRONG. I'M A COWARD AND A PERVERT!

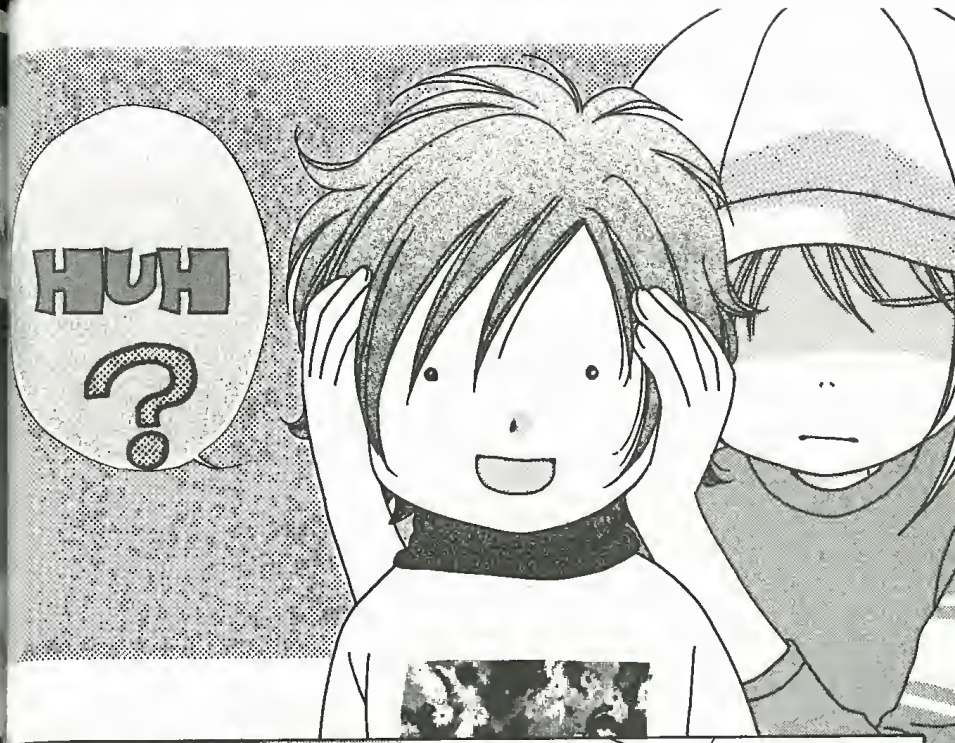
WHAT DID YOU SAY?
I SAID, I DON'T THINK YOU'RE TOTALLY OVER THAT KANAKO GIRL YET.
WHY DO YOU CARE ABOUT ME AND KANAKO?
NOTHING. JUST WONDERING WHY THE REST OF THE WORLD IS IN MY PERSONAL BUSINESS.
SLUMP
HEY... WHAT'S WRONG?

WHA--?
YU...
--MUROI?

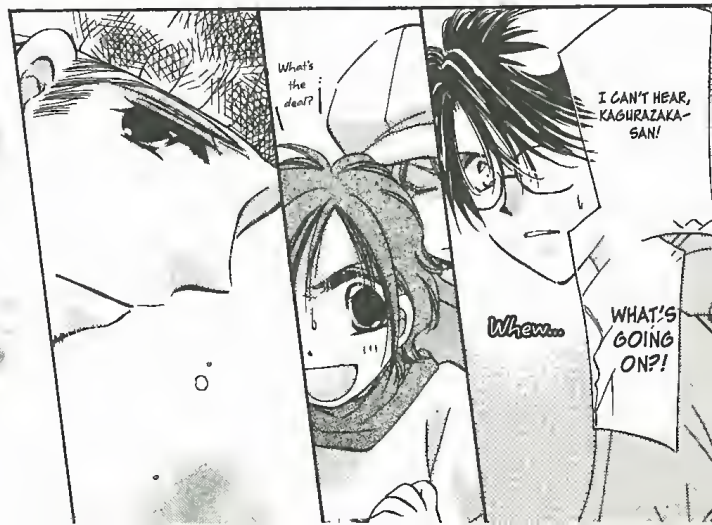
I WOULD'VE KILLED YOU IF YOU DID THAT TO MY GIRL!
NO WAY WOULD I EVER LET ANY MAN OTHER THAN ME LAY ONE FINGER ON HER!
There they are, Kagura-sakai-san.
Jeez. They sure went for just to buy drinks.
BELIEVE
WHAT ARE THOSE TWO TALKING ABOUT? I CAN'T HEAR.
IT LOOKS LIKE THEY'RE ARGUING OR SOMETHING.
FROM WHERE I'M STANDING...
...YOU DON'T LOOK VERY SERIOUS ABOUT LOVING HER.
THE WAY YOU JUST WALKED AWAY MYSTIFIES ME.







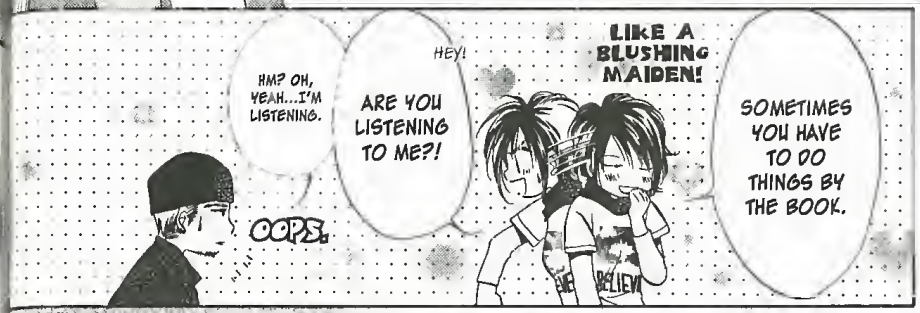
"YOU DON'T LOOK VERY SERIOUS ABOUT LOVING HER."



I DON'T GET IT.
WHAT DOES YABE THINK HE'S DOING?
...HE FEELS HE'S COMMITTING A SIN HE CAN NEVER COMPLETELY ATONE FOR.
HE ACTUALLY GAVE UP THE REST OF HIS HAREM, SO I THOUGHT HE'D BE SERIOUS FOR ONCE.

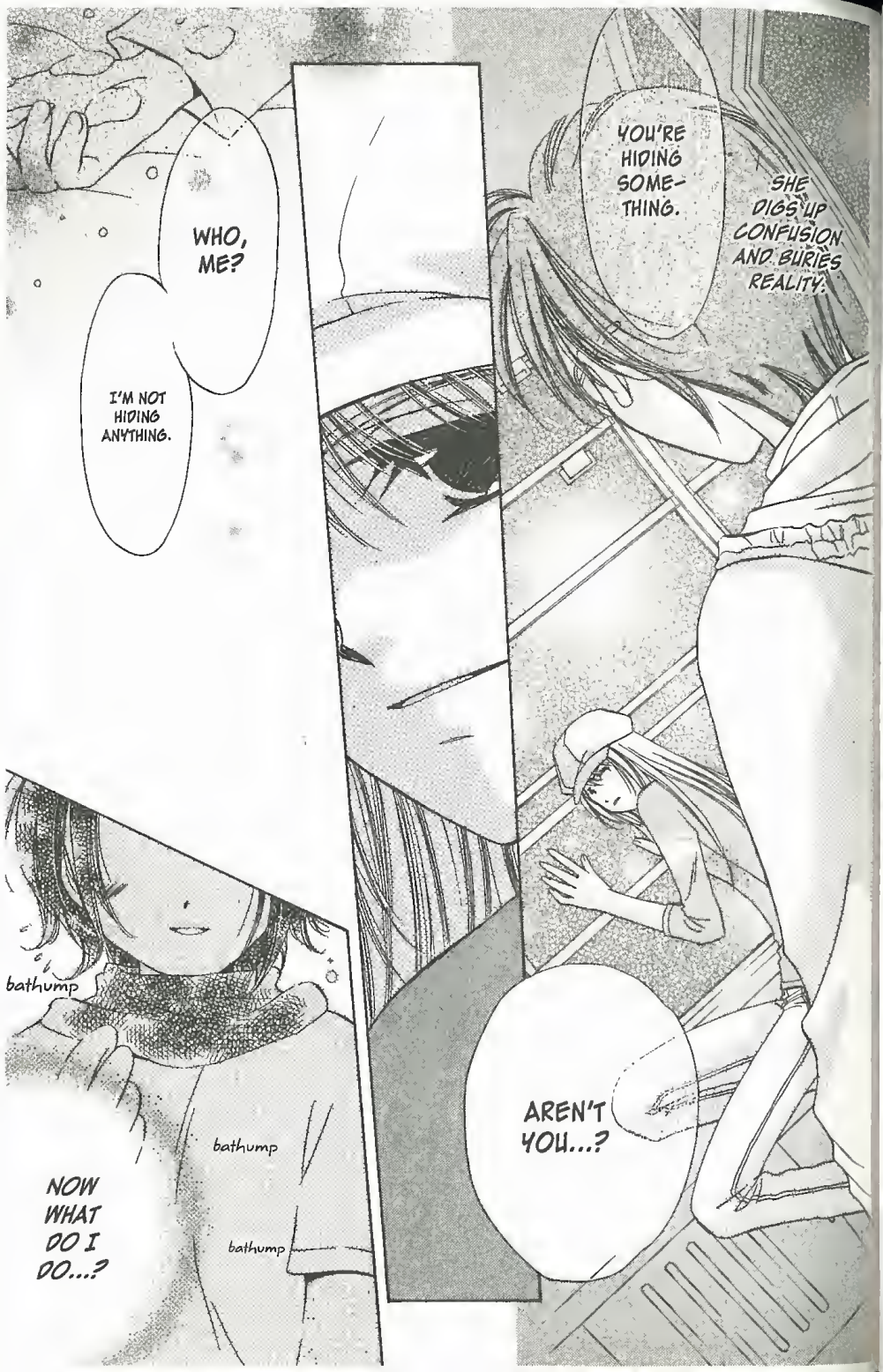
IT'S ALMOST LIKE...

I KNOW, IT'S KINDA CLICHÉ, BUT COME ON!
I'M GLAD SHE DID. A ROMANTIC RIDE FOR TWO ON THE FERRIS WHEEL IS THE BEST THING TO DO ON A DATE!
YEAH.
Tee hee!
I CAN'T BELIEVE KAGURAZAKA-SAN LET US RIDE ALONE TOGETHER.
She usually interferes



YOU'RE MY INSURANCE POLICY.
HUH?!
Insurance?
THERE'S A TIME LIMIT TO THIS. YOU NEED YURI AWAY FROM HIM BEFORE IT'S UP.
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?!
IS THAT WHY YOU'VE TAKEN MY SIDE?
"USUALLY TAKES TOO LONG"?
IS IT BECAUSE HE'S STILL HUNG UP ON YOUR DEAD SISTER?
...YOU CAN KISS IT ALL GOOD-BYE.
WHAT KIND OF TIME LIMIT?
BE CAREFUL. IF HE ENDS UP IN LOVE WITH YURI BEFORE TIME'S UP, THAT'S OKAY, TOO.
HUH?!
IF THAT HAPPENS...

WHAT?! YOU CALL THAT SERIOUS?
IF YOU'RE RIGHT, I FEEL SORRY FOR MUROI!
"SERIOUS" AND "NOT SERIOUS" ARE DIFFERENT FOR DIFFERENT PEOPLE.
I THINK HE REALLY IS BEING SERIOUS.
IN YABE'S MIND, HE MIGHT BE VERY SERIOUS ABOUT HOW HE'S FALLING IN LOVE WITH YURI.
EVEN IF HE'S STUMBLING NOW, HE'LL TUMBLE RIGHT INTO IT EVENTUALLY.
IT'S JUST THAT IN THE LOVE GAME, "EVENTUALLY" USUALLY TAKES TOO LONG.


WHO, ME?
I'M NOT HIDING ANYTHING.
YOU'RE HIDING SOMETHING.
SHE DIGS UP CONFUSION AND BURIES REALITY.
bathump
bathump
bathump
NOW WHAT DO I DO...?
AREN'T YOU...?

WHOOPS! NO THEY WEREN'T. MY BAD.
COULD YOU EXPLAIN ALL THAT TO ME ONE MORE TIME?
Defeated
SIGH
YURI AND YABE ARE KISSING!
WHOA!
IF YOU DON'T WANT LIP-LOCK TO HAPPEN, THEN DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT!
hee hee hee hee
You gave me a heart attack!
WHY YOU...!!!
KAGURA-ZAKA...
NEVER THE TRUTH...
GOD. CAN'T YOU EVER SPEAK PLAINLY?
IT'S ALL LIES.

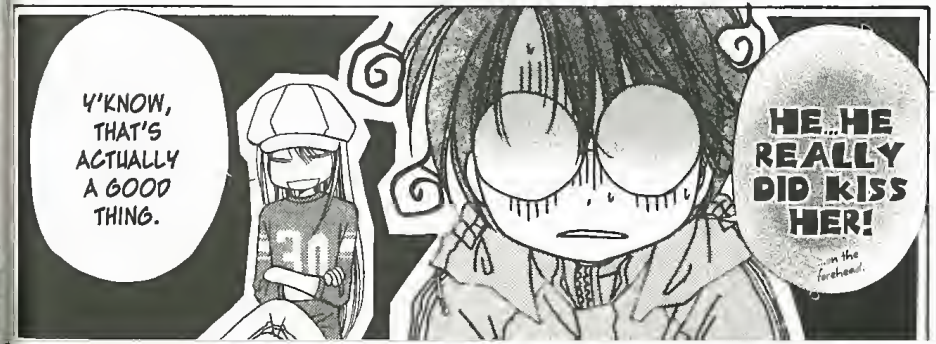
...IS NO BIG DEAL.
DID YOU CATCH A COLD?
DON'T WORRY!
I'M FINE!
I'LL BE FINE IN A MINUTE...
nod nod nod.
AFFECTION LIKE THIS...
YOU POOR THING...
HUH?

HAVE TO...
...WHAT HE THINKS HE DID WRONG.
I HAVE TO ASK HIM...
BUT MY VOICE...
...HAVE TO...
...IS STUCK!
CRAP! HE NOTICED SOMETHING'S WRONG!
heff
heff
Hm? What?
YOU OKAY?
Pretend sore throat
YURI?
OH, GOD, THIS IS SO WEIRD.
IT'S LIKE WHEN I SCREAM!

I'M SORRY I'VE DRAGGED MY FEET. I SHOULD'VE ALREADY TOLD YOU...
I LOVE YOU.
IT WAS LIKE SCREAMING. I WAS SCARED!
I WAS AFRAID HE'D SAY HE STILL LOVED KANAKO-SAN.
SNIFF
GAK!
SENPAI!!!
WAAAAAH!
WAAAAAH!
I WAS AFRAID HE'D TELL ME HE DIDN'T NEED ME.
EVERY TIME HE SAID "I'M SORRY"...
SNIFF
...IT FILLED ME WITH TERROR.
..sen-pai..
..I..
..me too..
YURI...
C'MON. DON'T CRY.
YURI.
I'M... I'M S-SORRY, YURI.
hic
I love you, too!
I really, really love you...

BUT IT'S ALL OKAY NOW.
I MUST'VE REALLY HAD YOU WORRIED.
BUT FIRST, I NEED TO KNOCK OUT THAT JERK HIRAO.
I'LL LEARN TO LOVE YOU MORE THAN KANAKO...
...MORE THAN ANYONE.
HUH?! WHY?!
HE REMINDS ME TOO MUCH OF THE OLD ME.
HUH?

BACK WHEN I WAS ENTRANCED BY THE IDEA OF UNREQUITED LOVE.



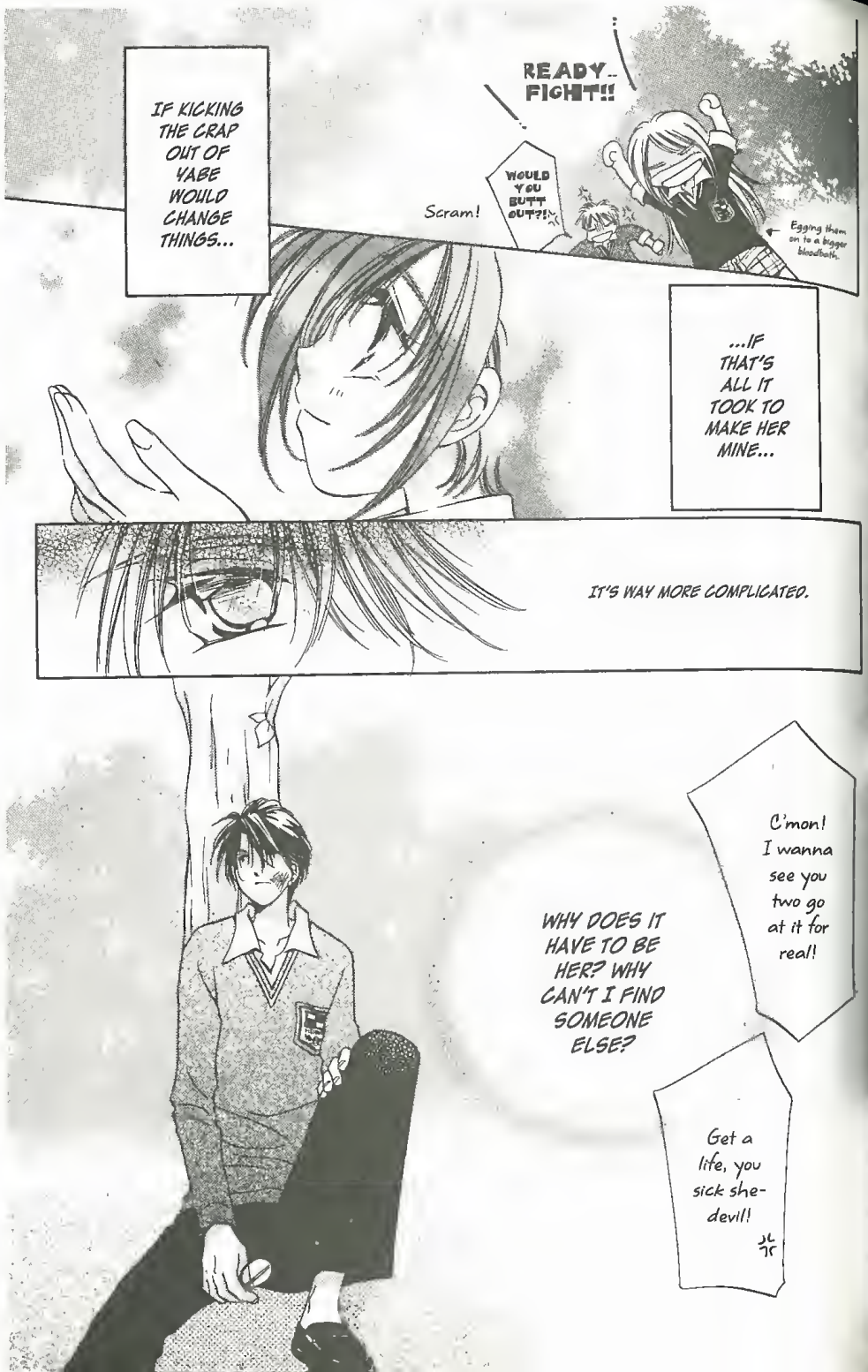
Zatoichi (R-15)

Because Take-chan's fight scenes are just too awesome.

This film got a rating of R-15 (Restricted, age 15 and over only). I wonder why? Oh, yeah, because there's a ton of blood in it. You know, if people really did turn into rampaging murderers from watching bloody movies when they were kids, I'd probably be a serial killer worse than even Russia's Chikatilo by now. I must've watched a gazillion gore-fest and slasher-horror movies before I was out of sixth grade, even.

On the other hand, someone who was raised in a proper household and adored typical, clean adventure novels can still end up a notorious killer. Actually, one already did. So, everyone, where do you think things went wrong for him?

In the meantime, if you absolutely have to watch a blood-and-guts movie, be sure to watch another film that's the opposite of gory right after. Nothing good happens when you lean too much towards one thing. Balance is important.

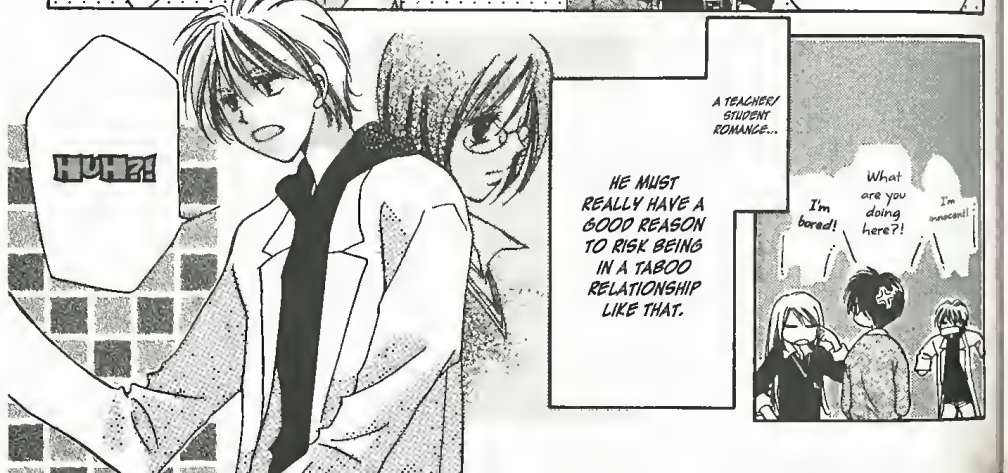

IF KICKING THE CRAP OUT OF YABE WOULD CHANGE THINGS...
READY- FIGHT!!
WOULD YOU BUTT OUT?!
Scram!
Egging them on to a bigger bloodbath.
...IF THAT'S ALL IT TOOK TO MAKE HER MINE...
IT'S WAY MORE COMPLICATED.
WHY DOES IT HAVE TO BE HER? WHY CAN'T I FIND SOMEONE ELSE?
C'mon! I wanna see you two go at it for real!
Get a life, you sick she-devil!

YURI IS MY WOMAN!!
I KNOW HOW YOU FEEL ABOUT HER, BUT YURI--
EVEN SO, LET ME BE CLEAR...
YEAH.
I KNOW.
THAT'S WHAT YABE MEANS TO SAY.
LAY ONE DIRTY FINGER ON HER, AND I'LL RIP YOUR HEART OUT YOU PATHETIC EXCUSE FOR A LOSER!!!
I HATE her
I'D HAVE DONE IT IF THAT'S ALL IT REQUIRED.
Don't listen to her, Hirao!!
BUT I DON'T!!
IF YOU'VE GOT A PROBLEM, FIGHT ME! THE ONLY WAY YOU'LL GET YURI IS OVER MY DEAD BODY! (AGAIN, THAT'S WHAT YABE MEANS.)
MOTOKO! WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU TRYING TO DO?!
NO! THAT WASN'T ME, HIRAO! I SWEAR!

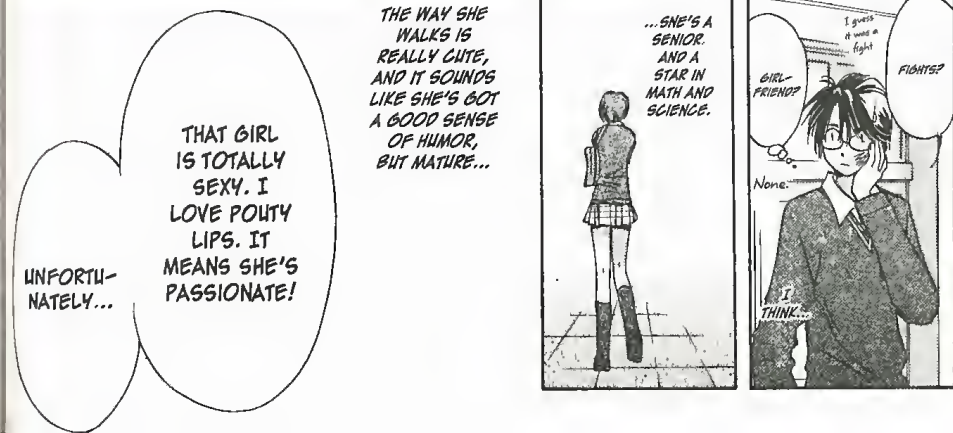
INFIRMARY
I'VE SEEN HER BEFORE. SHE'S...
IT'S...NOT AS BAD AS IT LOOKS.
LOOKS PAINFUL.
THAT'LL BE AN IMPRESSIVE SHINER.
INFIRMARY
UM... OKAY...
SHINJO-SENSEI SNUCK OUT TO PLAY A PUZZLE GAME.
AS STUDENT COUNCIL PRESIDENT, TRY TO MAKE HIM CLEAN UP HIS ACT.

IT'S NOT LIKE SHE'S THE ONLY GIRL IN EXISTENCE.
INFIRMARY
SHINJO-SENSEI, I NEED AN ICE--
DAMMIT, YABE, DID YOU HAVE TO HIT ME SO HARD?
--PACK...?

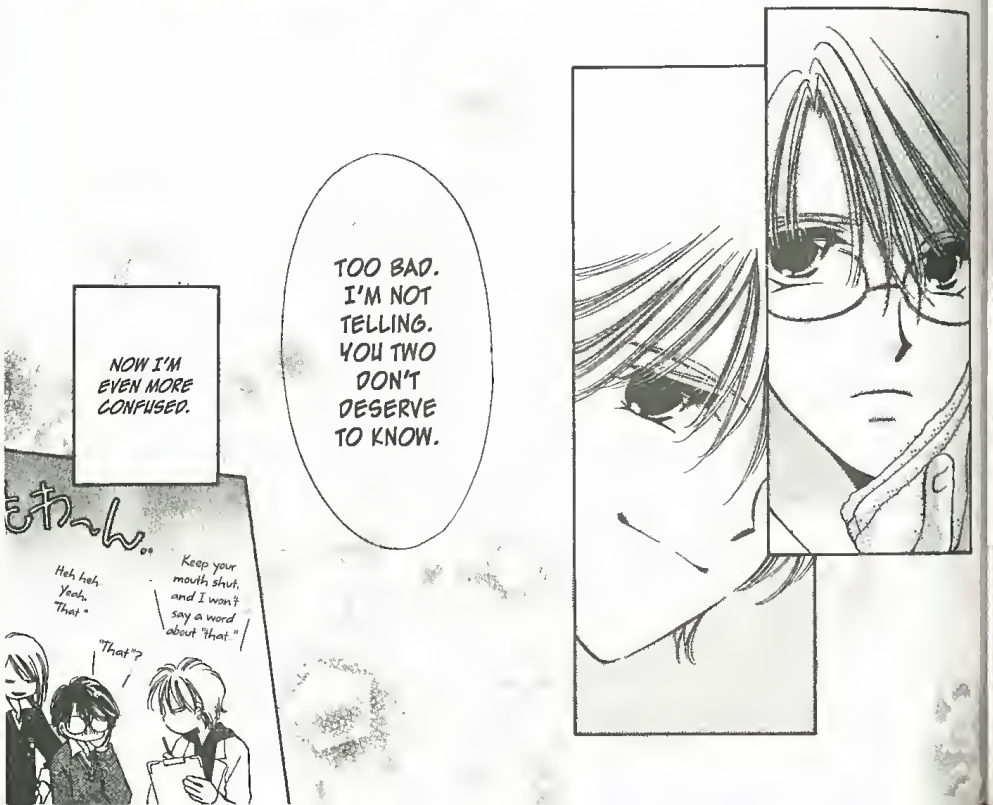
HUH?!
DAMMIT, KAGURAZAKA! QUIT BLABBING MY SECRETS TO THE WORLD!!
...EVERY INCH OF HER SEXINESS IS PROPERTY OF NURSE PERV!
ACK!
WHAT?!
I'M NOT DATING HER YET!
"Yet"?
Don't look at me like that!
Right?
A TEACHER DATING A STUDENT IS SLEAZY ENOUGH, BUT GOING OUT WITH ONE FROM YOUR OWN SCHOOL? THAT'S LOW.


HUH?!
A TEACHER/ STUDENT ROMANCE...
HE MUST REALLY HAVE A GOOD REASON TO RISK BEING IN A TABOO RELATIONSHIP LIKE THAT.
I'm bored!
What are you doing here?!
I'm innocent!

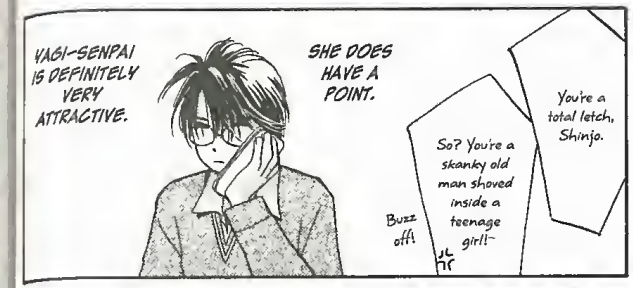
OH, HIRAO-KUN?
YOUR CUFF HAS A TEENY RIP RIGHT HERE.
BORROW A NAIL FILE FROM YOUR GIRLFRIEND AND YOU CAN FIX IT EASY PEASY.
--HUH?
TRY TO STAY OUT OF FIGHTS, 'KAY?
She's right


UNFORTU-NATELY...
THAT GIRL IS TOTALLY SEXY. I LOVE POUTY LIPS. IT MEANS SHE'S PASSIONATE!
THE WAY SHE WALKS IS REALLY CUTE, AND IT SOUNDS LIKE SHE'S GOT A GOOD SENSE OF HUMOR, BUT MATURE...
...SHE'S A SENIOR AND A STAR IN MATH AND SCIENCE.
GIRL-FRIEND?
I guess it was a fight
FIGHTS?
None.
I THINK...

WELL, THERE'S...
SHINJO-SENSEI.
I'D REALLY LIKE TO KNOW.
Sleaze
Same goes for you
Hmph—Say whatever you want—We're no different.
...NEVER-MIND.

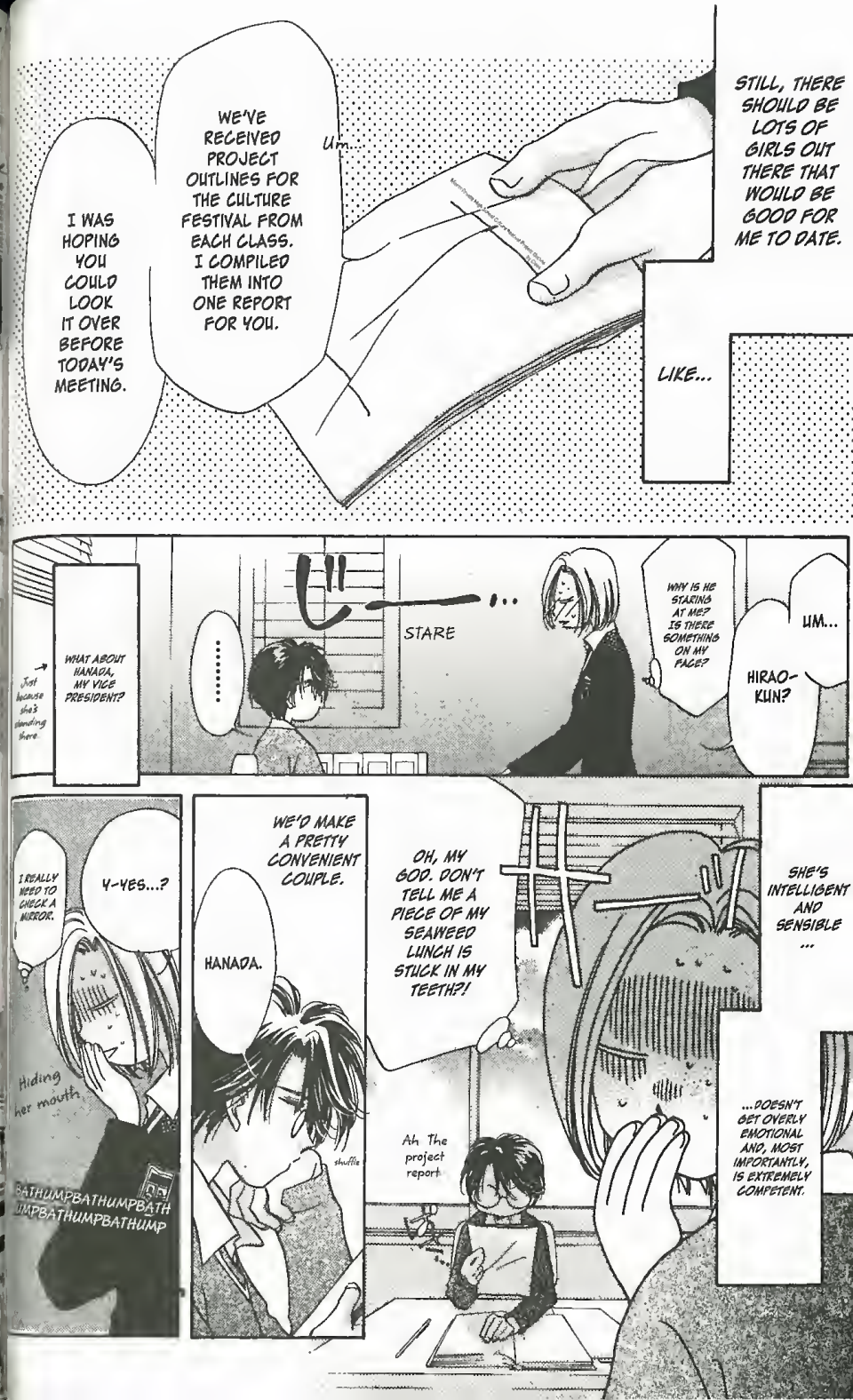

TOO BAD. I'M NOT TELLING. YOU TWO DON'T DESERVE TO KNOW.
NOW I'M EVEN MORE CONFUSED.
Heh, heh. Yeah. That.
Keep your mouth shut, and I won't say a word about "that."
"That"?

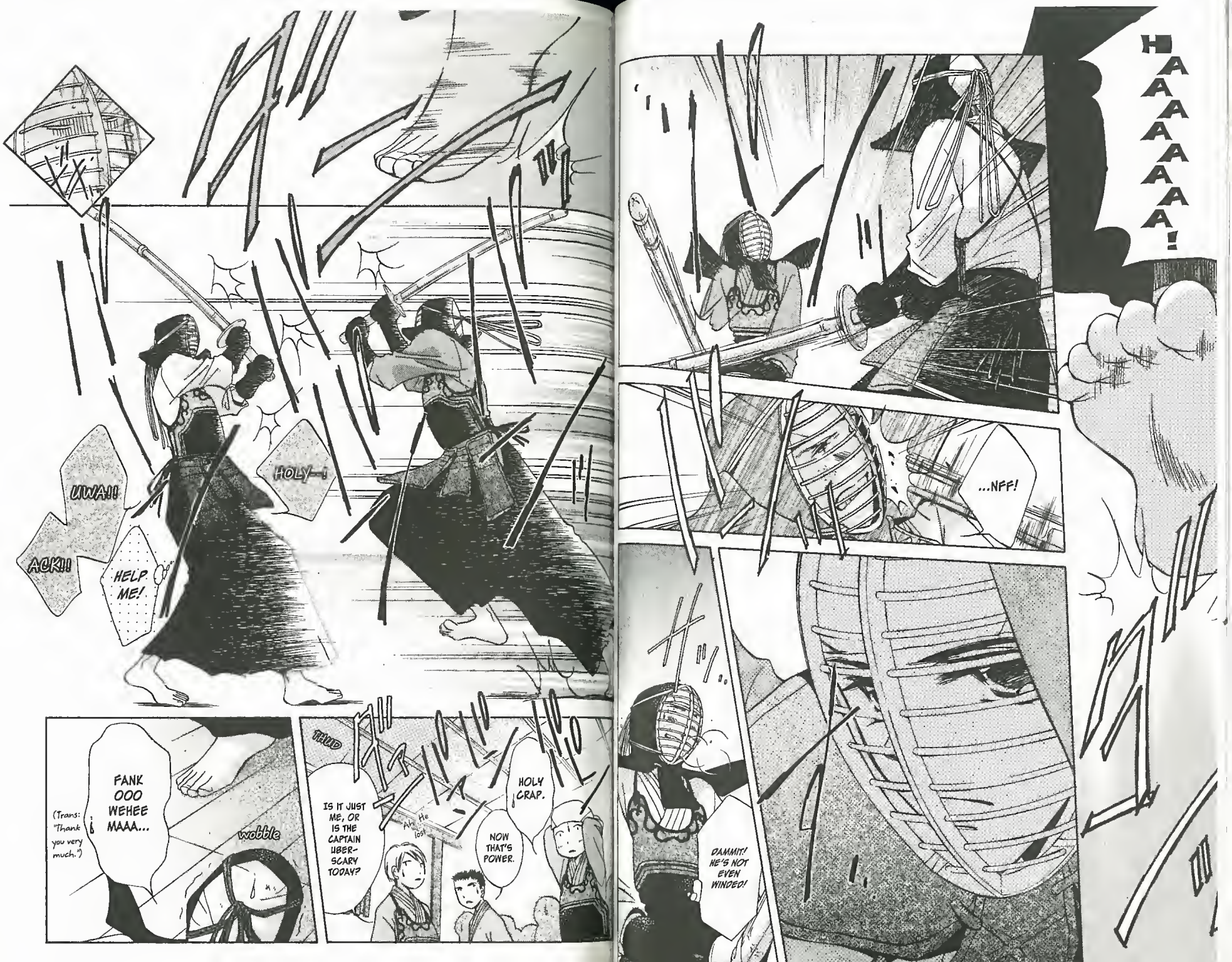
Quit ogling my chick!!
QUIET! NOT EVERYBODY IN THE WORLD IS AS TWISTED AS YOU ARE, WEIRDO!
Let's not forget the cute face.
HER LEGS!
THOSE SEXY LEGS. THE BEE-STUNG LIPS. THE NOT-TOO-BIG, YET-NOT-TOO-SMALL, PERFECTLY SHAPED BOOBS. SHALL I CONTINUE?
YOU'RE STILL HERE?


YAGI-SENPAI IS DEFINITELY VERY ATTRACTIVE.
SHE DOES HAVE A POINT.
You're a total letch, Shinjo.
So? You're a skanky old man shoved inside a teenage girl!
Buzz off!

SURE, IT'S AWESOME IF YOUR PARTNER'S HOT...
...BUT THAT'S NOT THE ONLY THING.
THEN WHAT ELSE IS THERE?
BUT THAT CAN'T BE THE ONLY REASON HE...
Look.
APPEARANCES AREN'T EVERYTHING, YOU KNOW.
OH. OKAY...
WHAT DO YOU CARE, ANYWAY?
HELL IF I KNOW.

HIRAO-KUN, WHY DO YOU TORTURE ME SO?!
(YOU'RE SUCH A NICE, PRETTY GIRL...)
HOW COME YOU DON'T HAVE A BOYFRIEND?!
Sexual harassment!
DID I SAY SOMETHING WRONG?
DA DA DA DA DA DA DA
YOU DIDN'T SAY ENOUGH, MR. PRESIDENT.
KRAK KRAKAPAK


STILL, THERE SHOULD BE LOTS OF GIRLS OUT THERE THAT WOULD BE GOOD FOR ME TO DATE.
LIKE...
Um...
I WAS HOPING YOU COULD LOOK IT OVER BEFORE TODAY'S MEETING.
WE'VE RECEIVED PROJECT OUTLINES FOR THE CULTURE FESTIVAL FROM EACH CLASS. I COMPILED THEM INTO ONE REPORT FOR YOU.
Just because she's standing there
WHAT ABOUT HANADA, MY VICE PRESIDENT?
STARE
WHY IS HE STARING AT ME? IS THERE SOMETHING ON MY FACE?
UM... HIRAO-KUN?
I REALLY NEED TO CHECK A MIRROR.
Y-YES...?
Hiding her mouth
BATHUMPBATHUMPBATH
UMPBATHUMPBATHUMP
WE'D MAKE A PRETTY CONVENIENT COUPLE.
HANADA.
shuffle
OH, MY GOD. DON'T TELL ME A PIECE OF MY SEAWEED LUNCH IS STUCK IN MY TEETH?!
Ah. The project report
SHE'S INTELLIGENT AND SENSIBLE ...
...DOESN'T GET OVERLY EMOTIONAL AND, MOST IMPORTANTLY, IS EXTREMELY COMPETENT.


HAAAAAAA!
...NFF!
DAMMIT! HE'S NOT EVEN WINDED!
UWA!!
ACK!!
HELP ME!
HOLY--!
(Trans: "Thank you very much.")
FANK OOO WEHEE MAAA...
wobble
THUD
IS IT JUST ME, OR IS THE CAPTAIN UBER-SCARY TODAY?
He lost!
NOW THAT'S POWER.
HOLY CRAP.

Mizuho Yagi

A long time ago, I swore to myself that at least once in my life, I absolutely had to draw a female character with a cute appearance and wonderfully pouty lips, but who was also a very old-fashioned and mature lady in the personality department. You see, back when I was in junior high school, my favorite sci-fi author wrote this story where the hero described the heroine like that, and even now that I'm an adult, I still clearly remember that one phrase. It's strange, I know. I just can't get it out of my head, no matter how hard I try.

Especially the "wonderfully pouty lips" part...

Are the antennas in my brain wired right...? Good question...

And when is Mr. Shimizu ever going to write another SF story?

"I...I'VE HAD A CRUSH ON YOU FOR A LONG TIME."

IT WOULD BE REALLY SIMPLE IF A GIRL TOLD ME SHE LIKED ME.

OH YEAH

Already happened once. The girl told me, we dated... and she dumped me a day later.

"YOU HATE ME, DON'T YOU, HIRAO-KUN? I KNOW YOU DO."

TOTALLY. COMPLETELY. AND ABSOLUTELY HOPELESS.

shake shake shake

Huh? Hirao-senpai suddenly looks really scary...

I'M HOPELESS.

He's so awesome

HE'S THE BEST KENDO MASTER EVER.

OTHER GUYS WOULD LOSE THEIR COOL WITH ALL THOSE GROUPIES, BUT NOT HIM.

I COULD PICK ONE OF THE GIRLS THERE BY THE DOOR.

HE'S 100% FOCUSED ON KENDO.

It's like...

IT WOULD BE EASY TO DATE ONE.

EEE!! Hirao-senpai!!

SIGH

COMPLETELY DISTRACTED

MAYBE A LITTLE, BUT ...

...HIRAO-SENPAI IS STILL THE COOLEST.

ALL RIGHT. WHATEVER. JUST DO SOMETHING SOON, OKAY?
Hmph.
You gotta break them up
SHE-DEVIL.
A LOT OF GIRLS LIKE IT WHEN GUYS TAKE THEM LIKE THEY MEAN IT.
I've read a few books...
NO WAY AM I GOING TO LOWER MYSELF TO THAT LEVEL.
AND I WOULDN'T DATE A GIRL SICK ENOUGH TO WANT ME TO!
Which books are those?
WHY IS SHE OBSESSED WITH THIS?
IMPOSSIBLE.
"THERE'S A TIME LIMIT TO THIS. YOU NEED YURI AWAY FROM HIM BEFORE IT'S UP."
WHY IS SHE PRYING MUROI AND YABE APART?
SHE MAKES NO SENSE. ALL I KNOW IS...
Hey, look!
Those two!
Hm?

URRRRGH!! NOW WHAT'RE WE GONNA DO?!
EVER SINCE THAT DATE THE OTHER DAY, THEY'VE BEEN GETTING DISGUSTINGLY CLOSE!
TWO-FOOT RULE! NO PDA AT SCHOOL!
YOU AGAIN?!
ARGH!!
THEY'RE HOLDING HANDS!!
SERIOUSLY...
sting
...I JUST MIGHT BE A LOST CAUSE.
C'MON, MAN, LET'S STRATEGIZE!
THAT'S ILLEGAL!
I'LL KIDNAP YURI AND YOU CAN DO WHATEVER YOU WANT TO HER.
That was stupid..
Ha ha! It was, wasn't it?

N-no way..
Hmm... I need new gossip about other people's problems...
THAT BLACK-HEARTED, EVIL, CARNIVOROUS SHE-DEVIL AND...
dooom
...ME?!
MAYBE?!
BUT THEN... MAYBE IT WOULDN'T BE SO BAD.
...IT'S JUST THE RUMORS ABOUT HER THAT ARE UGLY.
THEN AGAIN, KAGURAZAKA-SAN IS GORGEOUS...
I DEFINITELY DON'T MIND LOOKING AT HER.
WHO AM I KIDDING? ME AND HER?!

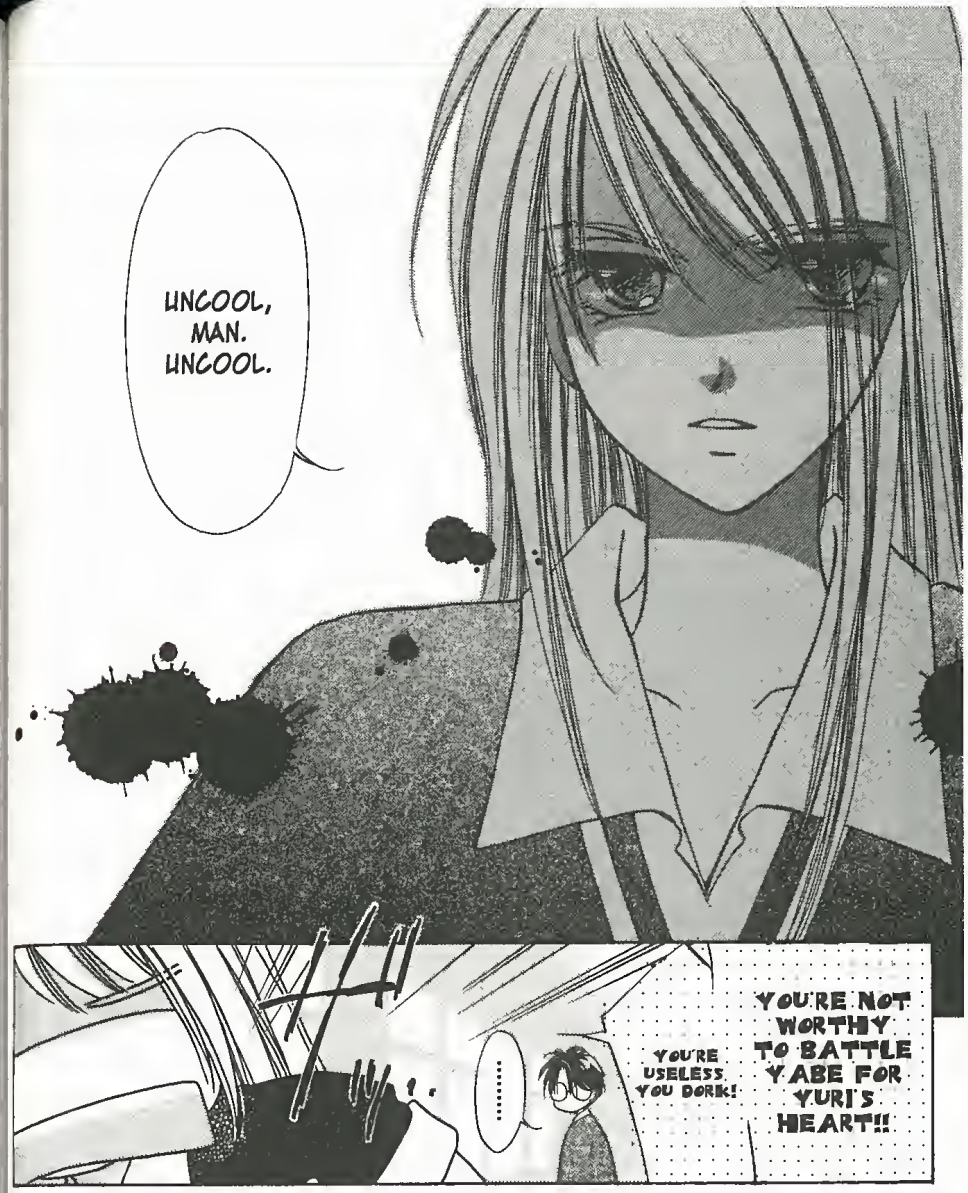
PLEASE TELL ME MY EARS ARE DECEIVING ME!

TRAIN OF THOUGHT, FULL STOP
.....
Bored little girls...
...HUH?
DON'T THEY MAKE AN AWESOME COUPLE?
THEY'RE BOTH SUPER ATTRACTIVE. THEY'RE AN IMPRESSIVE-LOOKING PAIR!
Both so tall and slender
...SHE'S HIDING SOMETHING. SOMETHING EXTREMELY IMPOR--
RUMOR HAS IT THEY'RE DATING ALREADY...
You think?

...YOU'VE BEEN SPENDING THIS WHOLE TIME DIGGING FOR REASONS TO GIVE UP ON YURI, HAVEN'T YOU?
GETTING TIRED OF UNREQUITED LOVE? THROWING IN THE TOWEL?
I...

SENPAI, TELL ME...
KAGURAZAKA, WOULD YOU--
...MOST OF ALL, I KIND OF LIKE HANGING OUT WITH HER.
GRANTED, HER MIND IS TOTALLY WARPED, BUT SHE'S NOT THE WORST I'VE MET.
WHAT?!
ONCE YOU GET DOWN TO IT, SHE'S THE ONLY FEMALE I CAN TALK TO FREELY.
SHE'S AS FRANK AS ANY GUY AND CAN HOLD HER OWN IN A FIGHT.
MOST OF ALL...
HIRAO, YOU'RE NOT LOOKING FOR MALE COMPANIONSHIP...
SHE FITS COMFORTABLY IN THE "ELEGANT BEAUTY" CATEGORY.
COME TO THINK OF IT...

HOW MANY TIMES DO I HAVE TO TELL YOU, DON'T HOLD THE LIQUID CRYSTAL DISPLAY!!
Look at how it shakes!
BUT, SENSEI...!!
WHA--?
WAP
Ha ha ha ha
ha ha ha ha
DAMMIT, MURO!!!
AMATEURS SHOULDN'T USE THE ZOOM FUNCTION ANY MORE THAN ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY!
IF YOU WANNA GET A CLOSE-UP, USE A TRIPOD!
THEN STUFF A TOWEL UNDER YOUR ARM!
I'M HOLDING MY ARM AS TIGHT AS I CAN, BUT THE SCREEN'S STILL SHAKING.
Sensei!
HE LOOKS SUPER PISSED AT HER.
WHAT THE HECK'S GOING ON DOWN THERE?
HE WANTS ME TO COME UP THERE.
THE STUDENT COUNCIL PRESIDENT IS CALLING FOR ME!
OUR EYES MET...
YIKES!
Shape up! The class is depending on you!
I do not!
SENSEI!
BATHUMP



...REALLY WANT AN "EASY" RELATIONSHIP?

Student Council Room

...BUT I THINK HE MIGHT EVEN GET BACK INTO KENDO.
HE SAID IT'S PART OF STRAIGHTENING OUT HIS LIFE.
HE'S WHAT?!
HUH?
THIS IS JUST A GUESS, MIND YOU...
HE HASN'T EXACTLY SAID SO, BUT I HAVE A FEELING.
HE IS...?
EVERY TIME WE GO PAST THE DOJO AND SEE YOU GUYS PRACTICING, HE GETS A DREAMY LOOK ON HIS FACE.
krak krak
IT'S LIKE HE'S TRYING TO REGAIN SOMETHING HE LOST.
"MAYBE I'LL STOP BLEACHING MY HAIR..."

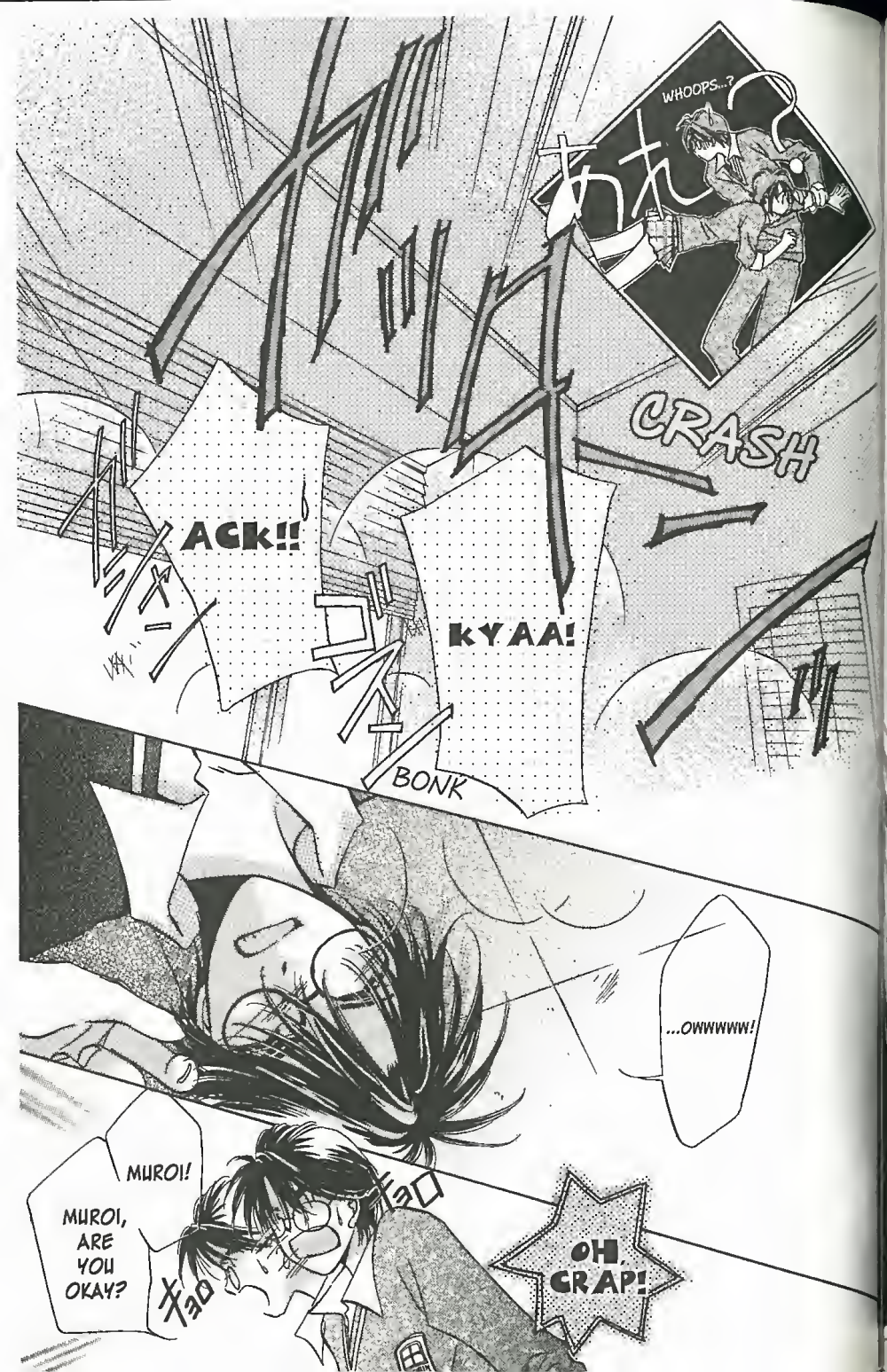
SLAM
GAH!
WHY, WHY--?!
WHEW! THANKS, HIRAO-SENPAI!! YOU SAVED MY BUTT!
I GOT ASSIGNED TO THE AV CREW FOR THIS YEAR'S CULTURE FESTIVAL.
WHY NOW?!
KUZUYAMA-SENSEI'S THE ADVISOR FOR IT, SO TRAINING IS SUPER HARSH.
He smacks the girls around, even!
SONI
Do you mind?
I'LL JUST HANG OUT UP HERE AND HIDE.
FINE BY ME.
WHERE'S YABE?
YABE-SENPAI WENT TO THE LIBRARY TODAY.
SNAP
HE DECIDED TO STUDY FOR ONCE.
WHY BRING HIM INTO THIS?

SONY
Cyber-shot
I'VE NEVER SEEN HIM LOOK SO FIERCE.
...WHOA.
HIRAO-SENPAI HARBORS A WARRIOR WITHIN.
IT'S LIKE A HIDDEN SIDE OF HIM.
IT'S PRETTY COOL.
MEGA PIXELS

UM, HIRAO-SENPAI? IF YABE-SENPAI EVER, UM... REQUESTED A SPARRING MATCH WITH YOU...
WOULD YOU ACCEPT IT?
"HE'S..."
"...A SUPER SCARY MONSTER!"
"THAT YABE GUY CREAMED YOU WITHOUT EVEN BREAKING A SWEAT."
YOU CAN COUNT ON IT.
AND THIS TIME, HE WON'T BE THE ONE LEFT STANDING.

DIDN'T KUZUYAMA SENSEI TEACH YOU ANYTHING?!
SORRY, IT CAN'T BE HELPED! I CAN'T USE THE ZOOM LENS.
DON'T GET ON THE DESK LIKE THAT!
GET DOWN!!
YEESH.
ALL RIGHT.
DON'T PICK YOUR KNEES UP!
Too much!!
I CAN SEE WAY, WAY TOO MUCH SKIN!
TEASE!
SHUT UP!
I'M NOT GOOD AT HAVING MY PICTURE TAKEN.
I DON'T KNOW HOW TO POSE.
ANYWAY STOP IT ALREADY OKAY?
Jeez...
Hirao's teacup
BUT YOU GOTTA GET OFF!
OH, I DON'T NEED YOU TO POSE OR ANYTHING. JUST STAND THERE AND BE NATURAL.
I TOLD YOU, DON'T PICK YOUR KNEES UP!!
HUP
I SAID TO GET OFF THE DESK!
...HER LEGS!
THAT'S THE THING I'M WORST AT!

WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING?!
YIKES!
HUH?
HOLD THAT POSE, SENPAI. YOU LOOK DANGEROUS!
I gotta practice.
BE MY MODEL FOR A SEC, WOULD YOU?
WOW, I NEVER KNEW YOU WERE SO PHOTOGENIC.
I...I DO...?
Likes the compliment
NO! WAIT A MINUTE!
DON'T BE A BABY! YOU LOOK GREAT!
I-I can't.
I-IMPOSSIBLE!


WHOOPS...?
あれ?
CRASH
ACK!!
KYAA!
BONK
...OWWWWW!
MUROI!
MUROI, ARE YOU OKAY?
OH CRAP!

I-I'LL LIFT YOU DOWN!
NO WAY!
Act of extreme bravery
.....
GRAR
WOULD YOU MAKE UP YOUR MIND?!
WHAT DO YOU WANT?
W-WELL... UM...
WELL, DUH. THAT'S NOT HYPOCRITICAL AT ALL.
LITTLE HYPOCRITE! IF I WAS YABE, YOU WOULD'VE JUMPED AT THE CHANCE.
COME... HERE!
GRR
LEGGO!
ACK! QUIT PULLING! THIS IS RIDICULOUS. I DON'T NEED YOUR HELP!
STOP SQUIRMING! THIS WAY'S QUICKER!
Gone too far to back out now...
I'M NOT A LITTLE KID, YOU KNOW. I CAN DO IT MYSELF!
Did that make her mad?
H-HEY!
W-WELL, TOO BAD! I WASN'T ASKING YOUR OPINION. IT'S NOT LIKE I HAVE ANY ULTERIOR MOTIVES OR ANYTHING. NOW LET ME HELP YOU GET OFF!

...HUH?
HEE...
HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA

HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA
THAT WAS... HAHA...THAT WAS SO MUCH FUN! HAHAHA...ALL OF A SUDDEN... HAHAHA...I WAS FLYING!
HA HA--OW!
OH, CRAP! HA HA...OW! LAUGHING MAKES, HA HA HA, LAUGHING MAKES THE LUMP HURT! OW!
HA HA HA HA HA--OW OW OW!
WHENEVER I START TO GET DEPRESSED...

S-SENPAI...
OH, MY GOD! YOUR HEAD?!
...TH-THE LUMP, IT...?
freeze
OH MY GOD!
YOU SHOULD SEE THE NURSE.
Like, right now.
NO, I'M FINE. REALLY.
WHAT HAVE I DONE?
I'M SORRY! THIS IS ALL MY FAULT. IF I HADN'T PULLED SO HARD...
I DON'T THINK SO! YOU'VE GOT A HUGE LUMP ON YOUR HEAD.
I...I'M FINE.
Heh GOOSE EGG... heh... ow...

DUMMY!

IF IT HURTS THAT BAD, SAY SO!

DON'T TRY TO TOUGH IT OUT!

WE'RE GOING TO SEE THE NURSE! STAT!

...I'VE FOUND A REASON...

"DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT."

...HEARING YOUR LAUGHTER TAKES ME RIGHT BACK TO BEING HAPPY.

That's a real goose egg...

"I CAN TELL WHEN SOMEONE IS BEING MEAN TO ME ON PURPOSE ..."

I THINK...

I'M FINE, SENPAI, I'M FINE! A LITTLE BUMP ISN'T GOING TO KILL ME.

HA HA HA HA

bleeeed

...NOT TO GIVE UP ON HER.

There is such a thing as being too hard-headed, you know!

SPLURT

ACK!

I CAN BE IN LOVE WITH HER IF I WANT. IT'LL BE MY SECRET...

Outside the Council Room...

WISS.

YOU SHOULD'VE JUST TAKEN HER.

Kagura-zaka-san, what are you doing?

...SOMETHING FOR ME ONLY.

Gatcha Gacha

Towering Inferno

Have I recommended this before...? I can't remember. Oh well. (What do you mean, "Oh well"?!)

Anyway, *Towering Inferno* is really, really old, but it's still one of my favorite disaster movies. Another is the original *Poseidon Adventure*. I highly recommend that one, too. I recently started collecting a whole bunch of old movies, so I figured I should let you readers know about them, too.

I absolutely adore disaster flicks. You can get a really good idea of what a person is really like by watching what they do when they're in a sudden life-or-death situation. It doesn't matter if it's a B-movie or even a C-movie, if it's got a disaster, I'll watch it.

If I ever got stuck in one of those situations, I think I'd be the person who goes stark raving mad with terror and ends up being the first to get killed.

If anybody has any recommendations for good ("good" as in so bad they're funny) B-movies or C-movies, I'd love to hear 'em!!

THAT CAMERA'S YOURS UNTIL THE END OF THE FESTIVAL. GO TAKE SOME PICTURES OF YOURSELF WITH YOUR HONEYBUNCH.
PICTURES OF ME AND YABE-SENPAI TOGETHER...?
You want me to what?!
PICTURES OF US ALONE...
I...
SNORT
What?! Make out?!
Have fun!
Thanks everyone!!
I'VE GOTTA GO MAKE OUT! 'SCUZE ME!!
I THINK IT'LL BE CLOSER TO TWO.
THREE MONTHS, TOPS.
HOW LONG DO YOU GIVE THAT COUPLE?
SO...

I WAS ASSIGNED TO THE AV CREW FOR THE FESTIVAL, AND I'M INSANELY BUSY.
YURI, ARE YOU OKAY? YOU LOOK KINDA PALE.
YEAH.
huff. huff. huff.
I'M FINE. I'VE BEEN RUNNING ALL OVER THE PLACE, THAT'S ALL.
BUSY, YES. BUT THAT...
...IS NOT THE ONLY REASON...
TWITCH
What th—?!
OH, THAT'S MINE. SORRY.
YOU'RE CARRYING IT THERE?!
Aha ha ha!
pi deet-dee-dee
WHEW.
We have the same ring-tone.
BATHUMP BATHUMP BATHUMP
YURI, WE'VE GOT EVERYTHING IN HAND HERE, SO WHY DON'T YOU CHECK OUT THE FESTIVAL? YOU'VE BEEN WORKING SINCE THE OPENING CEREMONIES LAST NIGHT. YOU EARNED A BREAK.
YEAH! YOU SHOULD GO FIND YABE-SENPAI!
WHERE THE HELL HAVE YOU BEEN?!
Hey! Sorry I'm late!
Can't. I have to cover for Ito, too
Why don't you rest for a minute?
...I'M DOG-TIRED.
PIDEETDEEDEE
PIDEETDEEDEE
AH-HA! ITO FINALLY SHOWED UP.
Another member of the AV crew
HUH?

Monrovia Public Library

WAY TOO MUCH ATTITUDE FOR A COMMON WAITER.
I DON'T SEE WHY NOT.
Guys actually working
WAITER! MR. HOT WAITER! COULD I HAVE ANOTHER CUP OF TEA?
NE, TOO...
HEY, WAITER? NO, NOT YOU. THE PRETTY ONE.
ONE COFFEE, PLEASE.
UM, MR. WAITER? CAN WE GET A PICTURE WITH YOU?
I'LL TAKE A PICTURE WITH ANYONE WHO BUYS SOME COOL CAT RAMEN.
KAGURAZAKA-SAN IS IN 1-A!
NO WAY...
SHE WOULDN'T!
HELL YEAH, SHE WOULD!

IT'S A SHAME. YURI'S A SWEETIE.
Though very excitable
YEAH, AND SHE'S PRETTY, TOO.
BUT...
...HER LUCK SUCKS WHEN IT COMES TO MEN.
HM? SUPER HOT GUY?
I NEVER KNEW WE HAD SUCH A HOTTIE IN OUR SCHOOL!
I KNOW! I'M SO TOTALLY SHOCKED!
I blushed just looking at him!
SEE! I TOLD YOU THERE WAS A SUPER HOT GUY THERE!
COOL CAT CAFÉ?!
THEY ALL HAVE TO GO OVER TO CLASS 1-A'S COOL CAT CAFÉ AND CHECK HIM OUT!
I CAN'T WAIT TO TELL EVERY-ONE!

WE'LL TAKE THREE!!
I KNEW IT!
IS SHE KIDDING?!
COOL CAT
Open Café
MENU
I ALWAYS KNEW...
Three ramens!
Comin' up!
...SHE WAS HOT!
bathump bathump
LURK!
NO! I MEANT I KNEW SHE WAS THE ALLEGED HOTTIE!
KAGURAZAKA-SAN! WHAT THE HECK ARE YOU DOING?!
wig
WELL? WHAT'LL IT BE?
Hmm?
YOU LOOK LIKE YOU'RE--
--THE KIND OF WAITER THAT SERVES MORE THAN FOOD.
WHEN DID HE--?!
KAGURAZAKA! YOU'VE ACTUALLY STOOPED TO USING MALE SEX APPEAL TO SELL NOODLES!
HAVE YOU NO SHAME?
CLEAN UP YOUR ACT, YOUNG LADY!
A SAMURAI GESTURE?!
OR I'LL HAVE THE ENTIRE CAFÉ SHUT DOWN!
HM?
WELL, WELL. DON'T YOU TWO MAKE THE CUTE COUPLE.
AND WHAT'S UP WITH THE SAMURAI COSPLAY, HIRAO?
Ha ha ha ha ha!
どわは
The Presidents so cool!
I get it now
Shut up!
I'm not wearing this because I want to!
WHEN YOU TWO ARE JUNIORS, YOU'LL HAVE TO GO THROUGH THIS, TOO!
2-C's theme: Edo Period

I MEAN, IT'S JUST KAGURAZAKA-SAN!
stare
WELL, WELL, WELL...
YOU'VE GOT SOME PRETTY DEEP BAGS UNDER YOUR EYES
IT'S JUST KAGURAZAKA-SAN!
UM...NO, NO. I WAS JUST LEAVING, ACTUALLY.
...HUH?!
YURI, YOU WANT ANYTHING?
!!!!
BATHUMP
WHAT THE HECK?! WHY AM I BLUSHING?!
YABE-SENPAI, I'M SO SORRY!!
THAT'S BORDERING ON SEXUAL HARASSMENT.
ALL RIGHT, YOU TWO. SEPARATE.
OW.
PII DEET DEE DEE DEE DEE
TWITCH
...IT'S REALLY, REALLY...
Not in your life!
Get a wig and lose the glasses
WHEN YOU PUT THOSE TWO SIDE BY SIDE...
WOW.
So, dear readers, how tall do you think Motoko is?
...IMPRESSIVE.
All drinks full price, of course
YOU GUYS WANT SOMETHING TO DRINK?
FINE BY ME. BESIDES, IT'S A GOOD LOOK FOR YOU.
I know how he feels.
NO.
PLEASE, HONOR US BY EATING HERE.
Hirao endorsement = doubled sales
rub
rub
HIRAO-SENPAI!
AND NO, NOTHING FOR ME. I'M DOING MY ROUNDS.
NOT AS GOOD AS YOU LOOK IN GUY'S CLOTHES.

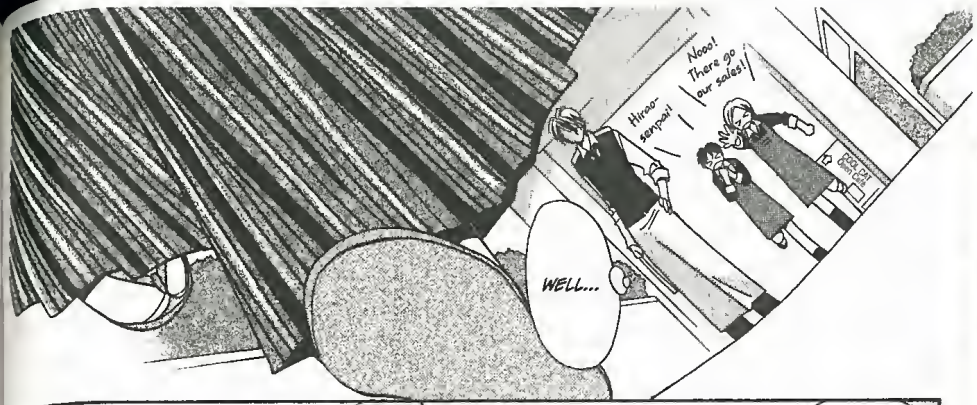
ARE YOU TRYING TO MAKE ME KILL YOU?
YOU'D MAKE A CUTE COUPLE, ACTUALLY.
WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL? HE'S YOUR FRIEND.
Quiet, you two!
WHAT DO YOU WANT, HANADA?
WHAT?!
THE WAY MUROI REACTED WHEN KAGURAZAKA'S PHONE RANG...
RIGHT. GOTCHA.
AT THE SCHOOL GATES...?
...WAS REALLY WEIRD. WHAT'S THE DEAL?
IF ANYTHING ELSE HAPPENS, PAGE ME VIA THE P.A. DON'T USE THIS PHONE. GOT IT?
BEEP
WHERE'D SHE GO?
HURRY IT UP! SHE'S LEAVING!
Yo!
ALL RIGHT. I'LL KEEP AN EYE OUT DURING MY ROUNDS.
twitch
twitch
Gotta go. See ya!
slap
RIGHT.
TO LOOK FOR YABE.
BETTER HAUL ASS.

MUROI...?
HIRAO! IT'S ONE OF YOUR LITTLE STUDENT COUNCIL MINIONS! SHE SAYS IT'S AN EMERGENCY!
whew
?
AH! IT'S KAGURAZAKA-SAN'S...
bathump bathump
Oh.
IT'S MINE.
I MEAN, HIRAO-SENPAI DOESN'T HAVE A CELL PHONE, SO...
-SAN NEEDED A WAY TO GET A HOLD OF HIM DURING THE FESTIVAL.
THAT DOESN'T ANSWER THE QUESTION!
Hey, look
It's Hirao-kun
WHY DID IT HAVE TO BE...
MINE?!
HERS?!
WHAT THE HELL IS ONE OF YOUR UNDERLINGS DOING CALLING MY CELL PHONE?!
AND HOW THE HELL DID SHE GET MY NUMBER?!
OH, I GAVE IT TO HER.
Here!
...IT IS?
WHAT?!
The Mischief Prince

WELL, WELL. LOOK WHO WE HAVE HERE.
WHA--?!
ROCK THE BELLS
PRODUCT 33
YOU SHRIMPS LOOKING FOR YURI?

!
OR WHAT?

UM, DO WE KNOW YOU... MISTER?


WELL...
Hirao-senpai!
Nooo! There go our sales!!
ROOM CLOSED

THAT WAS SO STUPID, KAGURAZAKA-KUN!!
HOW COULD YOU LET HIRAO-SENPAI GET AWAY LIKE THAT?!
MAYBE IT'S THE KENDO TRAINING THAT MAKES HIM SO DETERMINED.
Of course. I'll still diss him to his face.
...YOU GOTTA GIVE THE GUY CREDIT. HE HASN'T GIVEN UP ON HER, DESPITE ALL THAT'S HAPPENED.

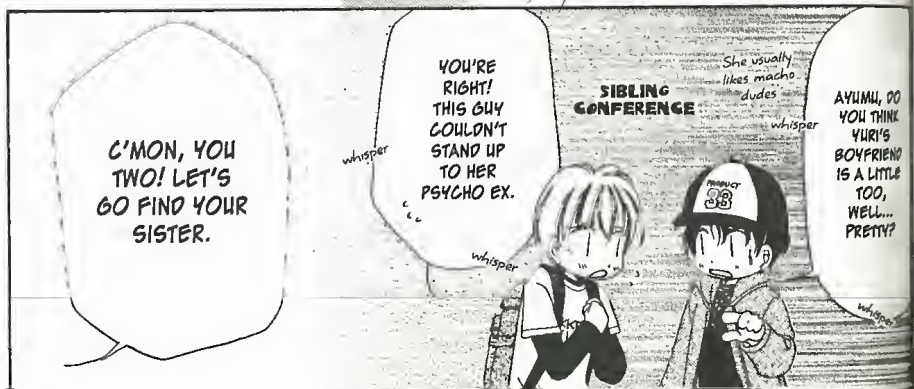
*NOTE: "-kun" is an honorific suffix given primarily to men.
HAUNTED HOUSE
Everybody's in weird costumes...
WOW. THE CULTURE FESTIVAL IS WAY DIFFERENT IN HIGH SCHOOL.
YEAH. I WONDER WHERE YURI IS.
HM?
Just for that, you're going to wear that wig tomorrow.
...THEM?
C-calm down...
We all know you're really a dude, anyway!!

YEP!
TEE HEE HEE
Besides
AREN'T YOU TRYING TO FIND YABE, ANYWAY?
I'LL KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR TROUBLEMAKERS ON MY ROUNDS. MAINTAINING AN ORGANIZED SEARCH PATTERN IS BETTER THAN AIMLESS WANDERING.
What would be the point?
WHOA! SHOULDN'T YOU BE LOOKING FOR HIM, THEN?
THERE'S SOMEONE DANGEROUS ON THE LOOSE. HE KNOCKED DOWN THE ARCH AT THE FESTIVAL'S ENTRANCE AND RAN ON CAMPUS BEFORE THEY COULD CATCH HIM.
IT'S A TOSS-UP. IF I WASN'T HELPING HER LOOK FOR HIM...
DAMMIT.
First, we'll take loads of pictures, then the haunted house, and then eat takoyaki...
...THEN I WOULDN'T BE WALKING ALONE WITH HER LIKE THIS.
MUROI...
Don't cry...
Waaaah!
SO, WHERE THE HECK COULD HE BE?!
HE'S NOT IN HIS HOMEROOM, OR AT ANY OF THE FOOD BOOTHS, EITHER!!
HE'S NOT HERE!!
takoyaki
Mini-sabu yen. Yaki-sabu yen.
THAT'S MY SACRIFICE.

I'M "TAKAHIRO YABE," YOUR BIG SISTER'S BOYFRIEND.
DIDN'T SHE TELL YOU?
SILENCE
Don't they remember me?
Automatically look up to tall, cool guys
wag wag
DON'T YOU?
Smirk
INSTANT ADORATION
PRODUCT 33
It's him!
HIRAO-SENPAI?
WHAT WAS THAT PHONE CALL ABOUT, IF YOU DON'T MIND MY ASKING?

Not that she's not twitchy most of the time.
twitch
twitch
I GUESS THAT'S WHY SHE GETS ALL TWITCHY WHEN A CELL PHONE RINGS.
BUT...
AND HE CALLS HER AT LEAST ONCE EVERY THIRTY MINUTES!
REALLY.
YEAH! HE FOLLOWS YURI HOME FROM SCHOOL EVERY DAY. HE WANTS HER BACK.

SHE'S EITHER RIDICULOUSLY STUBBORN OR FOOLISHLY OPTIMISTIC...
I'm perfectly capable of dealing with my own problems, thank you very much!!
No way! You'd put the poor guy in the hospital
...IF SHE'D JUST TOLD ME OR YABE, WE'D HAVE TAKEN CARE OF IT.
.....
So, what to do?
twinkle
twinkle
PRODUCT 33
...OR JUST PLAIN STUPID.


C'MON, YOU TWO! LET'S GO FIND YOUR SISTER.
SIBLING CONFERENCE
YOU'RE RIGHT! THIS GUY COULDN'T STAND UP TO HER PSYCHO EX.
whisper
whisper
She usually likes macho dudes...
whisper
AYUMU, DO YOU THINK YURI'S BOYFRIEND IS A LITTLE TOO, WELL... PRETTY?
whisper
PRODUCT 33

C'mon!
Wha--?!
Yabe-kun, you're coming with us!
YEAH, SOME GIRLS IN OUR CLASS AMBUSHED HIM AND DRAGGED HIM OFF SOMEWHERE.
WHAT?!
WHY?!
glance
I HAVE NO CHOICE...
Dumb dummy!
STUPID SENPAI!!
Where did you go?!
HEY, TAGO-KORO!
HAVE YOU SEEN YABE ANYWHERE?
YABE?

...'THERE'S NO SUCH THING AS A BLONDE SAMURAI."
I'M NOT SURE, THEY JUST KEPT SAYING...

EX-BOYFRIEND-TURNED-STALKER?
WHAT?

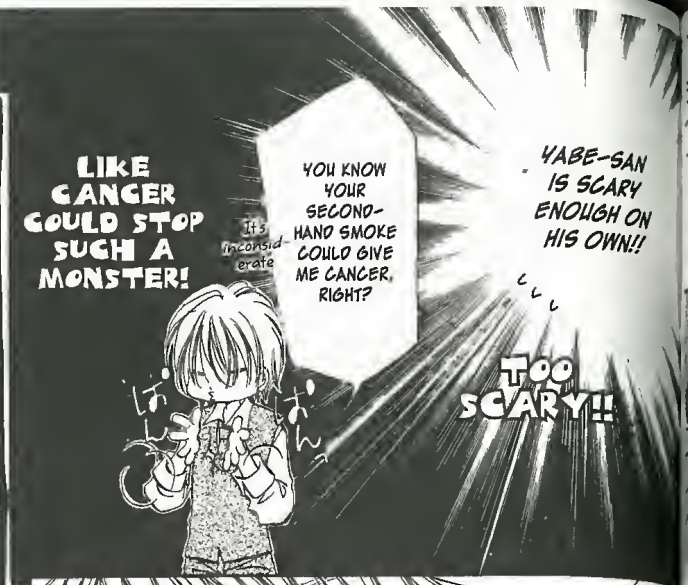
I'm already writing about a female nurse in another manga of mine (called *Honey*, and also a *Hana to Yume* publication. Go read it. Please?), so I decided to have him be a guy this time. Pretty simple reasoning, really.

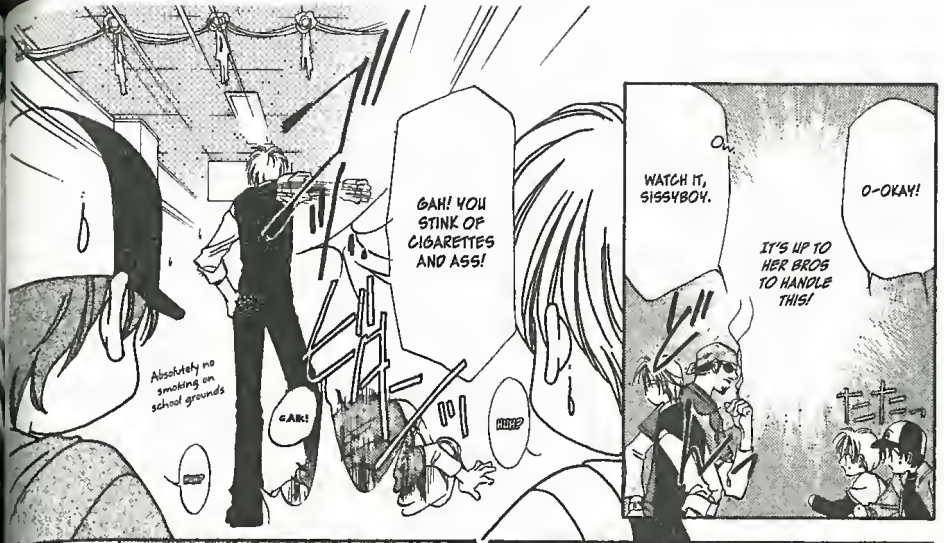
Shinjo-sensei (haven't thought of a first name for him, yet).

I did have a real reason for making him so ridiculously pretty, though. Y'see, in Japanese schools, nurses often double as unofficial guidance counselors. Besides, girls love going to the infirmary to hang out and gossip during lunch and recess. Now, if he was some super-ugly guy, girls wouldn't be caught dead near the nurse's office, so they wouldn't get unofficial counseling, all their emotional problems would pile up and spill over in class, and that would cause problems for the whole school, right? So, I did the considerate thing and made him pretty. Make sense?

Believe it or not, there are a handful of fangirls out there who absolutely adore him. I was shocked, personally.

I mean, he gets hardly any page time. But still, to each their own. Thanks!!

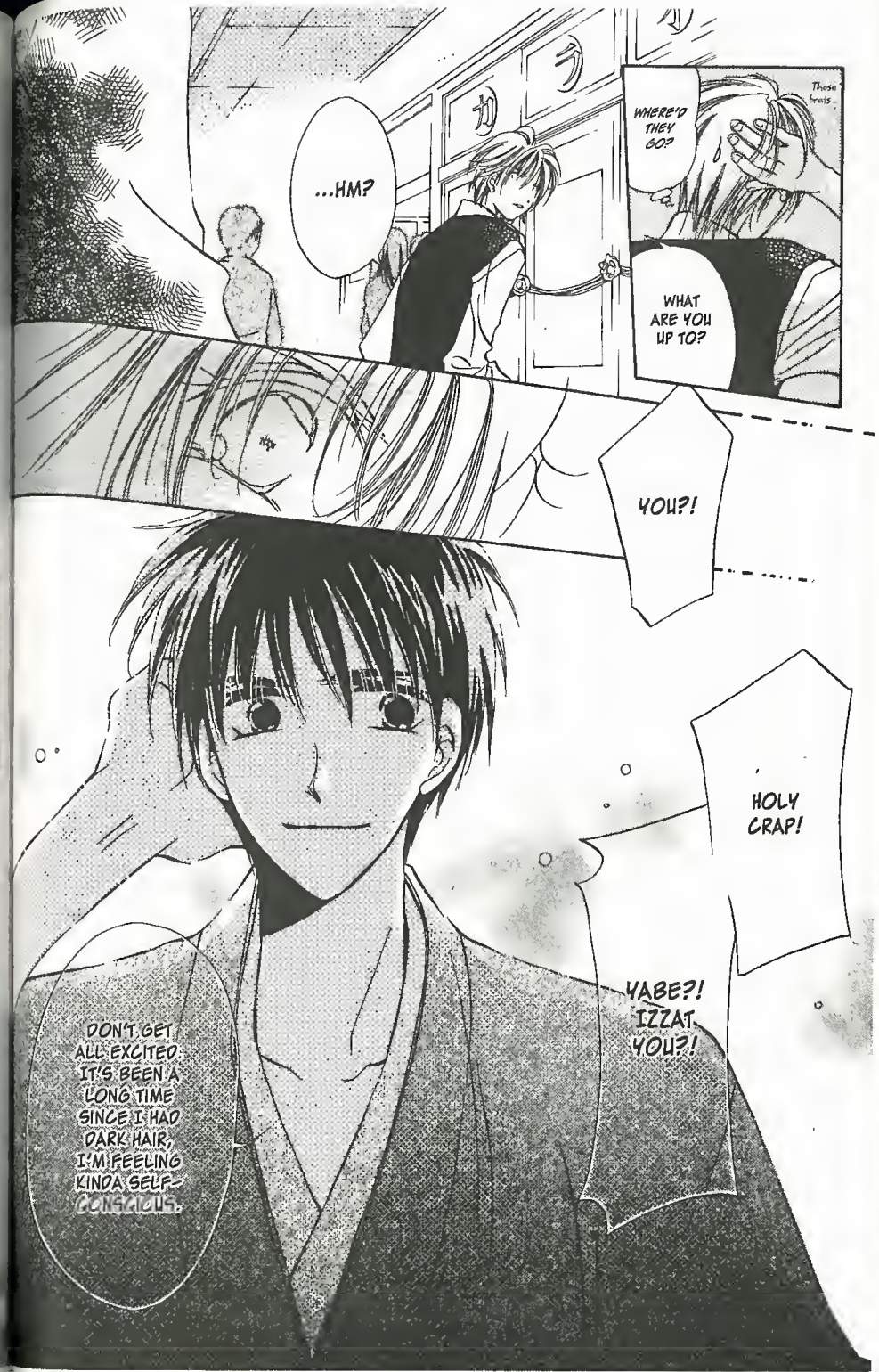

LIKE CANCER COULD STOP SUCH A MONSTER!
It's inconsiderate
YOU KNOW YOUR SECONDHAND SMOKE COULD GIVE ME CANCER, RIGHT?
YABE-SAN IS SCARY ENOUGH ON HIS OWN!!
TOO SCARY!!



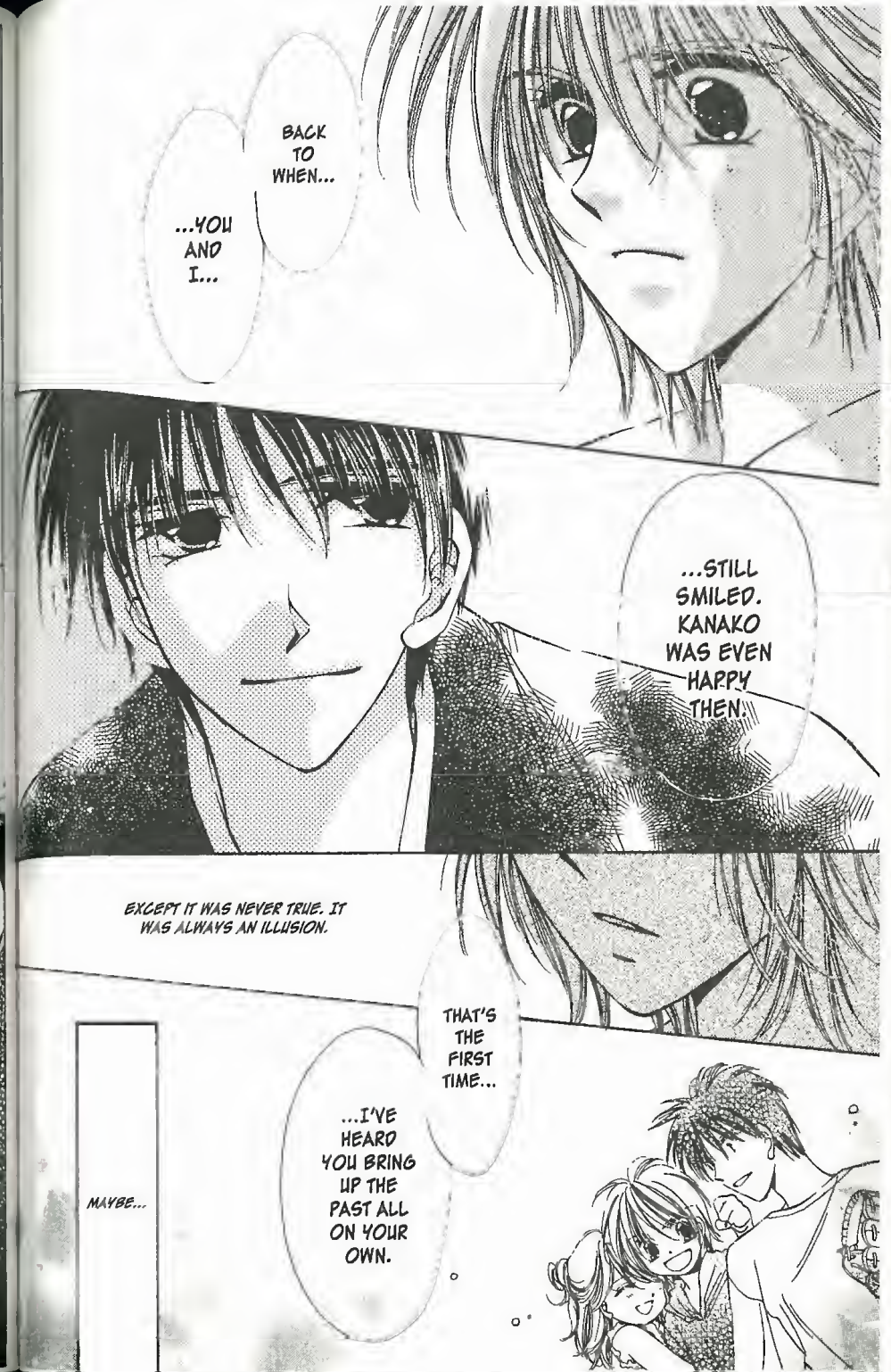
She always goes way too far.
I'D SAY WE UNDER-ESTIMATED THIS NEW PLAYER.
AAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAHHH!!!!
Sizzle Sizzle
NO! D-DON'T! PLEASE!
W-WAIT!!
IF YOU'RE GONNA TOSS YOUR BUTTS...
...YOU'VE GOT TO MAKE SURE IT'S ALL THE WAY OUT.

YEAH, WELL, YOU DRESSED AS A BOY IS LIKE SOMETHING OUT OF A HORROR MOVIE.
You're too convincing.
FORTUNE TELLER
...THE HELL?
FREAKY!!
YOU...YOU'VE GROOMED! YOU'RE CLEAN! BORDERLINE RESPECTABLE!
BUT...
Taking pictures
OMIGOD!
WHAT HAPPENED?!
SOME GIRLS FROM MY CLASS PRACTICALLY TIED ME DOWN AND DYED IT.
AND THE PEACH-FUZZ?
THEY SHAVED IT.
That's Yuka sempai!
No way!

...IT'S LIKE WE'VE STEPPED INTO A TIME WARP.
...WITH US BOTH DRESSED LIKE THIS ...


...HM?
WHERE'D THEY GO?
These brats...
WHAT ARE YOU UP TO?
YOU?!
HOLY CRAP!
YABE?! IZZAT YOU?!
DON'T GET ALL EXCITED. IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME SINCE I HAD DARK HAIR, I'M FEELING KINDA SELF-CONSCIOUS.

HIKARU!
THAT MORON!
HEY, WHOA!
AYUMU !!
MOTOKO!
SHUT UP, YOU BRATS!
QUIT YER WHININ' AND GO GET ME YURI!
...THIS IS A SIGN THAT HE TRULY IS BEGINNING TO FORGET ABOUT KANAKO.
AAAAAAGH!! LEMME GO!!
Crap!
I KNOW THAT VOICE!


BACK TO WHEN...
...YOU AND I...
...STILL SMILED. KANAKO WAS EVEN HAPPY THEN.
EXCEPT IT WAS NEVER TRUE. IT WAS ALWAYS AN ILLUSION.
THAT'S THE FIRST TIME...
...I'VE HEARD YOU BRING UP THE PAST ALL ON YOUR OWN.
MAYBE...

YAAAAH! No!!! STAY AWAY!!!
?
AH, WELL... I GUESS I SHOULD BE NICE AND SAVE YOU, ANYWAY.
KRIK POP KRAK
NOOOO!
KRAK
.....
YABE'S SCARIER THAN KOUJI! WAY SCARIER !!
STEP IN AND BE THE MAN.
THOSE ARE YURI'S LITTLE BROTHERS.
UM, WHY DID THAT KID JUST CALL YOU "YABE"?
WHO CARES?!
Not me!
HMPH!
WHAT IS SHE DOING?

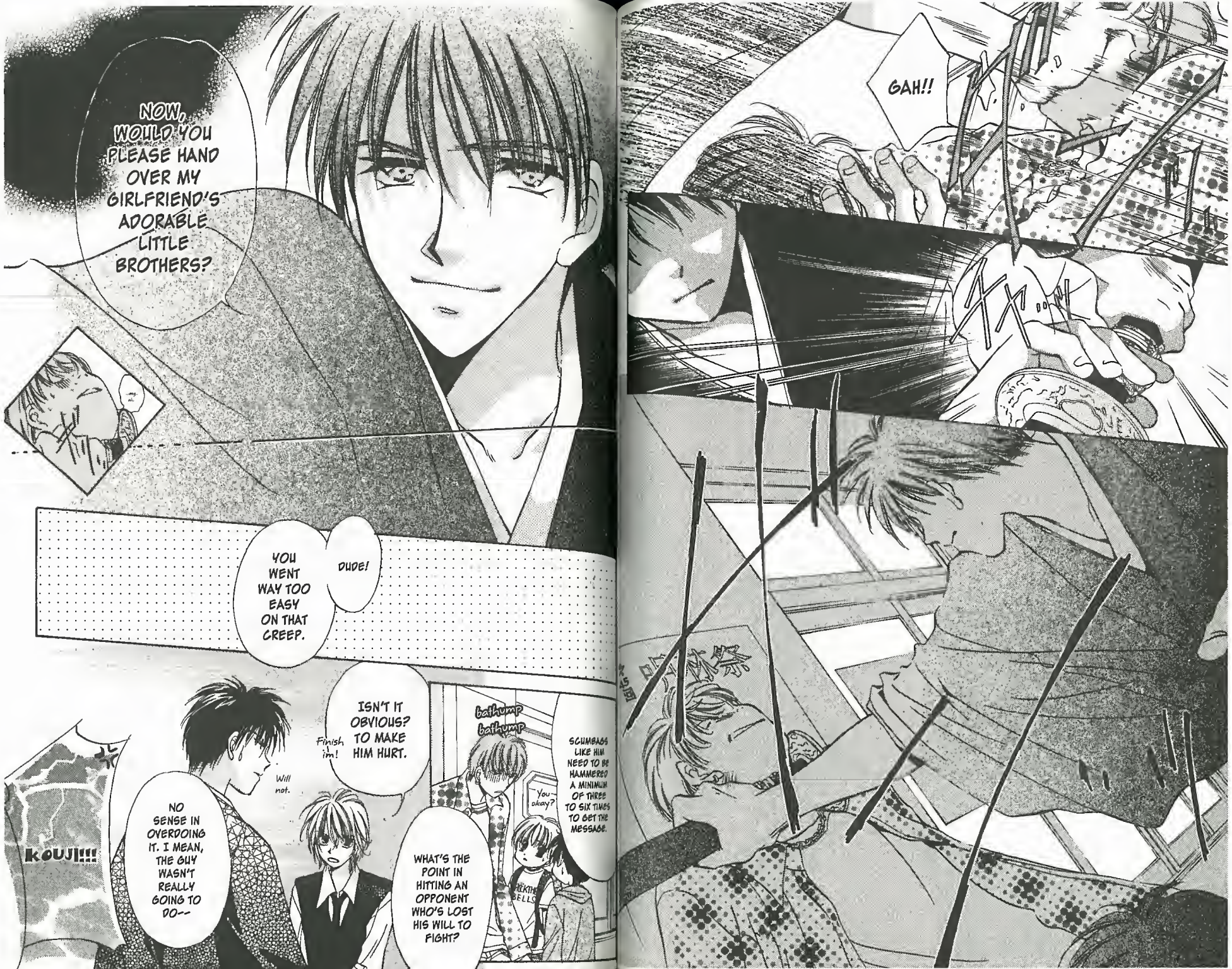
I TOLD YOU TO SHUT UP!
LET HIKARU GO! PLEASE!!
NO DUH! THAT'S BECAUSE SHE DUMPED YOU IN THE GARBAGE WHERE YOU BELONG!
THE LITTLE BITCH STOPPED TAKING MY CALLS!
AND SHE REFUSES TO COME AND SEE ME!!
NOOO!
HIKARU!!!
IF YOU DON'T GET HER, HE'S GOING OUT THE WINDOW-- HEAD FIRST!
ONLY WHEN I SEE YURI!
WHY DO YOU DUMMIES HAVE TO BE SUCH PAINS IN MY BUTT?
SOME-BODY!!
ANYBODY, HELP!!

That she-devil!
Um...
Y-YOU'RE THE GUY WHO GOT MY WALLET BACK THAT ONE TIME, RIGHT?
THIS HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH YOU!
I ONLY CAME TO SEE YURI!
WAIT. I-ISN'T YURI GOING OUT WITH YABE-SAN?
I'M THE REAL TAKAHIRO YABE.

I'M GONNA HARASS THOSE RUNTS EVERY CHANCE I GET.
THAT DOES IT.
YO! THIS IS MY SHOW! EVERYONE ELSE SHUT THEIR PIE HOLE!
You've got to save us!! Please!!
YOU ARE?! THANK GOD!

...I'LL-- MRPH!!
IF YOU DON'T...
DO WHAT YOU'RE TOLD AND GET ME YURI!
KARAOKE

I SUPPOSE IT WOULD BE WRONG OF ME TO WALK AWAY NOW.
They look alike
WHO THE HELL ARE YOU?!
SO, YOU'RE YURI'S PSYCHO EX-BOYFRIEND, EH?
YOU ARE?!
ME? I'M YURI'S NEW BOYFRIEND. AND YOUR WORST NIGHTMARE.


GAH!!
NOW, WOULD YOU PLEASE HAND OVER MY GIRLFRIEND'S ADORABLE LITTLE BROTHERS?
DUDE!
YOU WENT WAY TOO EASY ON THAT CREEP.
ISN'T IT OBVIOUS? TO MAKE HIM HURT.
Finish 'im!
Will not.
NO SENSE IN OVERDOING IT. I MEAN, THE GUY WASN'T REALLY GOING TO DO--
KOUJI!!!
bathump bathump
You okay?
SCUMBAGS LIKE HIM NEED TO BE HAMMERED A MINIMUM OF THREE TO SIX TIMES TO GET THE MESSAGE.
WHAT'S THE POINT IN HITTING AN OPPONENT WHO'S LOST HIS WILL TO FIGHT?

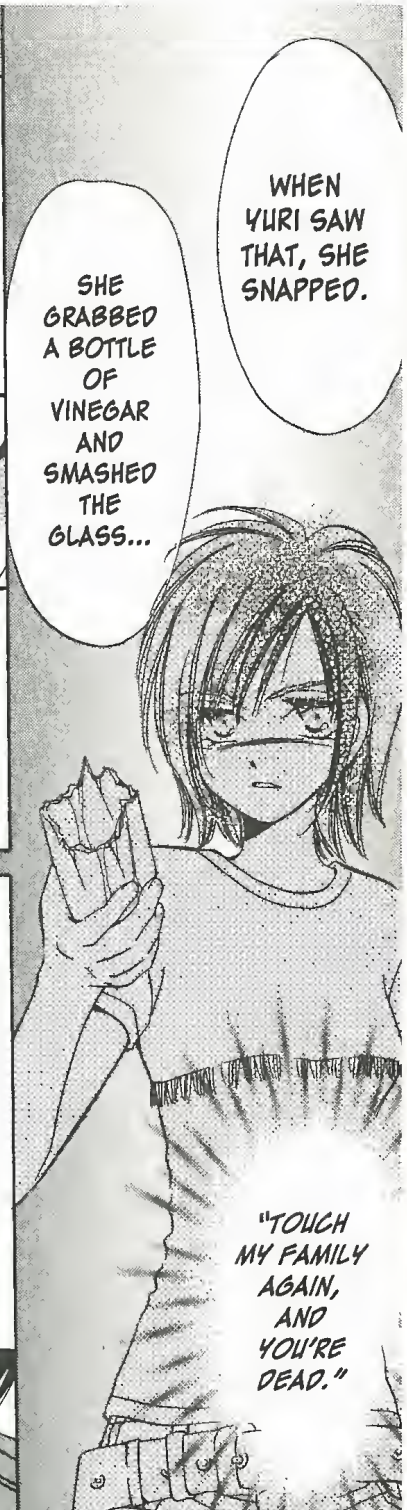
TOUCH MY FAMILY AGAIN, AND YOU'RE DEAD!
I WARNED YOU A MILLION TIMES!
MEIRIN
LOOM
"STAY OUTTA THIS, YOU LITTLE MAGGOTS!"
HIKARU AND I TRIED TO JUMP IN, BUT KOUJI KICKED US BACK OUT AGAIN.
YEAH. HE AND YURI GOT INTO A HUGE FIGHT A WHILE AGO.
She's scary..
THERE'S BEEN OTHERS...?
I DON'T WANT TO HEAR IT! NO MORE SECOND CHANCES!
YURI, I'M SORRY!
I JUST WANTED TO...I JUST...

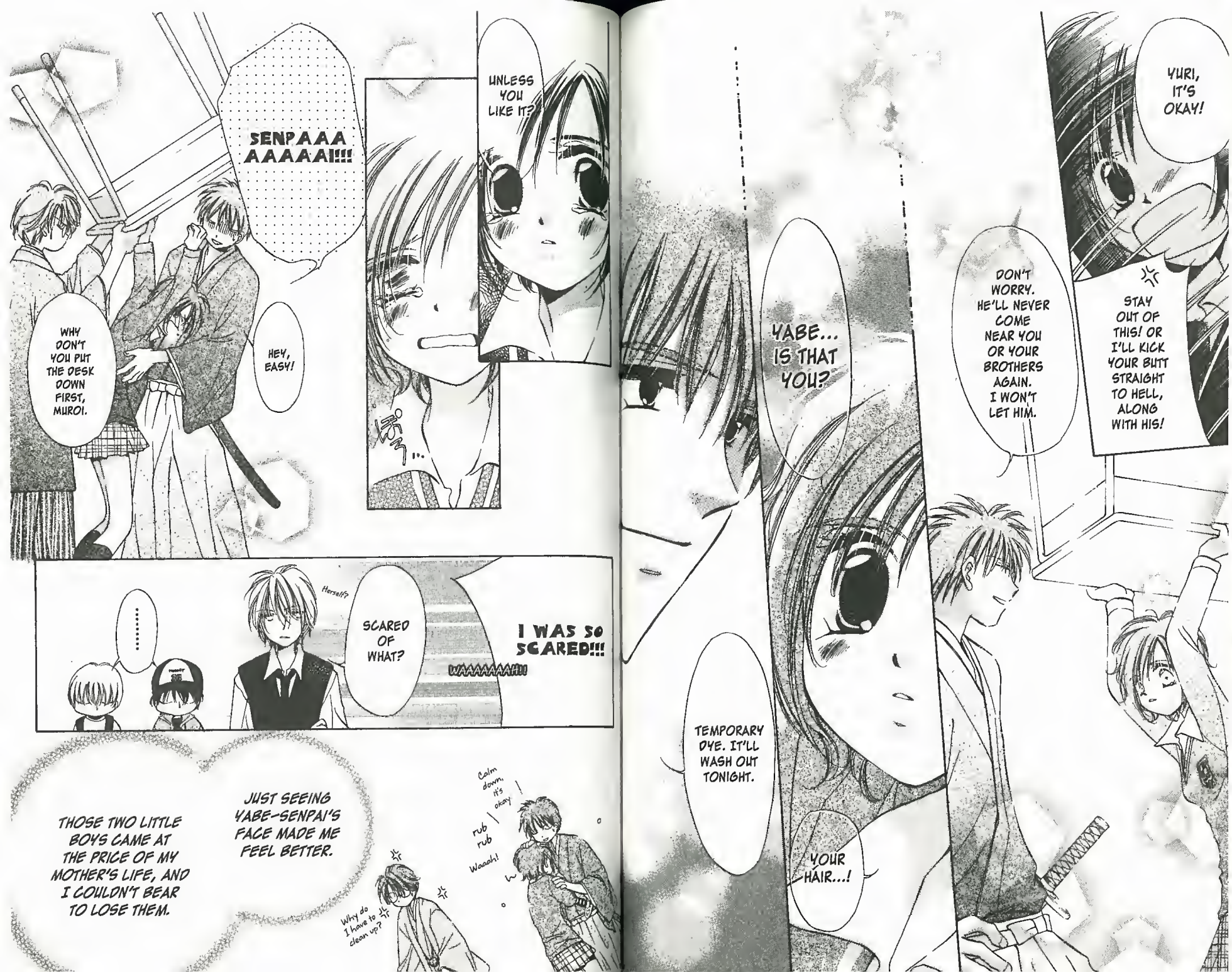
OH! YU--
?!
PRODUCT 38

SOMEBODY GET THAT JERK OUT OF HERE!
OTHERWISE, MUROI REALLY WILL KILL HIM.
I DON'T KNOW. IT LOOKS LIKE SHE MEANS BUSINESS.
YURI.
YURI!

I-I DON'T THINK SHE'D REALLY DO IT, THOUGH.
SHE WAS JUST MAD AND WANTED TO PROTECT US.
.....
YURI'S TOO SWEET TO EVER REALLY HURT SOMEONE.

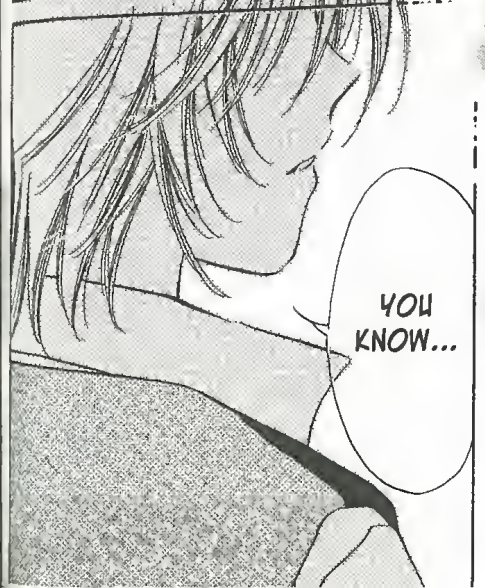
HEY!! I COULD USE SOME HELP OVER HERE!!!


WHEN YURI SAW THAT, SHE SNAPPED.
SHE GRABBED A BOTTLE OF VINEGAR AND SMASHED THE GLASS...
"TOUCH MY FAMILY AGAIN, AND YOU'RE DEAD."


SENPAAAAAAAAI!!!
WHY DON'T YOU PUT THE DESK DOWN FIRST, MUROI.
HEY, EASY!
UNLESS YOU LIKE IT?
I WAS SO SCARED!!!
WAAAAAAAH!!!
SCARED OF WHAT?
Herself?
.....
JUST SEEING YABE-SENPAI'S FACE MADE ME FEEL BETTER.
THOSE TWO LITTLE BOYS CAME AT THE PRICE OF MY MOTHER'S LIFE, AND I COULDN'T BEAR TO LOSE THEM.
Why do I have to clean up?
Calm down, it's okay!
rub rub
Waaah!
YABE... IS THAT YOU?
TEMPORARY DYE. IT'LL WASH OUT TONIGHT.
YOUR HAIR...!
DON'T WORRY. HE'LL NEVER COME NEAR YOU OR YOUR BROTHERS AGAIN. I WON'T LET HIM.
YURI, IT'S OKAY!
STAY OUT OF THIS! OR I'LL KICK YOUR BUTT STRAIGHT TO HELL, ALONG WITH HIS!

IT USED TO TAKE ONLY A SMALL BREEZE TO BLOW US OFF COURSE.

BUT NOW I WAS UTTERLY CONFIDENT WE COULD RIDE OUT THE WORST OF STORMS WITH NO PROBLEM.



WHEN HE RAN HIS FINGERS THROUGH MY HAIR, ALL MY FEARS SUBSIDED.

YABE.
GRAB THAT, WOULD YOU?
AND TRY TO GO EASY, OKAY?
DAMMIT. LEMME GO!!
YEOW!
I'LL DO MY BEST, BUT YOU MIGHT...
...WANT TO PASS THE NEWS TO...
AGK! KAGURAZAKA-SAN! STOP!!
...HER. DO IT QUICK, BEFORE SHE DOES PERMANENT DAMAGE.

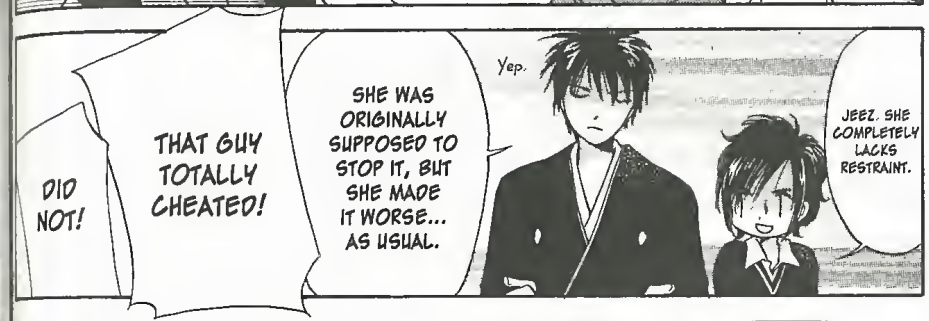
KAGAMI-SAN.
HM? OH, NO, NOTHING.
KAGAMI-SAN!
IS SOMETHING WRONG?
LITTLE DID I KNOW, BUT RIGHT THEN...
...A HURRICANE WAS STIRRING ON THE HORIZON. ONE SO BIG...
WANT TO GO OVER TO THE WEST WING?
They're having a masquerade ball or some kind
SOUNDS LIKE FUN!
...IT WOULD SHATTER MY CONFIDENCE INTO A MILLION USELESS PIECES.
Sekine (a boy)
Junior high kids
KAGURAZAKA-SAN!! SAVE ME!!
NO. I DON'T.
HEY, BABE. YOU'RE PRETTY CUTE.
WANNA GIVE US A TOUR OF THE BUILDING?

Gatcha Gacha
THAT'S GOOD ADVICE, GUYS. ANNOYING MOTOKO IS BAD FOR YOUR HEALTH.
OW!
AH!
OW!
Come on...
ANYBODY STUPID ENOUGH TO MESS WITH ME GETS WHOOPED!!
'CUZ UNLIKE SOME GUTLESS PRESIDENTS I COULD NAME, I DON'T PLAY NICE!!
WELL, SORRRRY.
Gutless me!
THUD
NOT AGAIN!
AXE
kick
LISTEN UP, BUTTHEADS! IF YOU DON'T STOP FIGHTING THIS INSTANT...
...I'M GOING TO KNOCK OUT EVERY ONE OF YOUR TEETH!
Kids, do not try this at home

THAT YOUR GIRLFRIEND GOT AS FAR AS SHE DID HAS TO BE SOME KIND OF MISTAKE!
SHUT UP!
THERE'S NO WAY HIS GIRLFRIEND COULD'VE WON!!
HE CHEATED!!

WHAT?! THEY'RE GETTING THIS BENT OUT OF SHAPE OVER SOME DUMB PAGEANT? WHAT'S THE PRIZE? A PLASMA SCREEN? HAWAIIAN VACATION?!
ARE THEY KIDDING?
.....
THE MISS MEIRIN BEAUTY CONTEST, I THINK.
BASTARD!
WAS IT BRIBERY? BLACKMAIL?!
YOU TAKE THAT BACK!
WHAT ARE THEY EVEN TALKING ABOUT?

SO, WHERE ARE THESE BEAUTY QUEENS, ANYWAY?
Eh?
Don't you think I'm pretty?
OVER THERE.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY THAT? I DEMAND TO KNOW! AS YOUR GIRLFRIEND.
mutter
YABE-SENPAI!!
WHO CARES? YOUR GIRLFRIEND IS YOUR GIRLFRIEND, WHETHER SHE'S HOT AS THE SUN OR UGLY AS SIN.
GOOD GOD! HOW PATHETIC CAN YOU GET?!
NOT EVEN. THE WINNER GETS BRAGGING RIGHTS, THAT'S ALL.


DID NOT!
THAT GUY TOTALLY CHEATED!
SHE WAS ORIGINALLY SUPPOSED TO STOP IT, BUT SHE MADE IT WORSE... AS USUAL.
Yep.
JEEZ. SHE COMPLETELY LACKS RESTRAINT.

Please direct fan letters of love and adoration for Tachibana to:

Yutaka Tachibana
c/o TOKYOPOP Editorial
5900 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 2000
Los Angeles, CA 90036
U.S.A.

THE PUNISHMENT FITS THE CRIME.
NOT THAT I BLAME HER, BUT...
Anyway...
HAVE YOU DECIDED ON A PUNISHMENT FOR THOSE TWO?
YOU'RE ONE TO TALK!
FESTIVALS BRING OUT THE WORST IN PEOPLE.
FOR STARTERS, THEY'VE GOT THREE-PAGE ESSAYS DUE ON THE PERILS OF CHEATING. THEN THEY'LL GET DETENTION AND BE MADE TO WEED THE SPORTS FIELD.
Doesn't matter to me, so long as we're far from you.
WHAT?!
So, what's next?
...IT'S UNUSUAL TO SEE HER SO SULKY.
GLOOOOM
...homely...
Plain...
BUT WHY IS SHE LETTING IT EAT AT HER? SHE SHOULDN'T BE INSECURE. SHE'S TOTALLY PRETTY.
SIGH
I need to step up my efforts!
Maybe I should wear more makeup
Guys like homely girls
YABE SOMETIMES DOESN'T THINK ABOUT THE THINGS HE SAYS.

THIS THING HAS TO BE RIGGED!
MISS MEIRIN CONTEST
Winner
Runner Up
16th Miss Meirin
Miss Meirin Runner Up
TA-DA
TIME FOR A DO-OVER!
YEAH, YOU SPEAK WITH AUTHORITY, YABE?
M-muro!?
ARE YOU SAYING THE ONLY REASON YOU'RE DATING ME IS BECAUSE I'M "PLAIN," SENPAI?!
"Plain" is popular, believe it or not
GRAR
I WOULDN'T BE SO SURE. A LOT OF GUYS LIKE THAT "HOMELY" LOOK.
Girls' standards of cute are totally different than guys' standards
IS IT JUST ME, OR HAVE THERE BEEN A LOT MORE FIGHTS THIS YEAR?

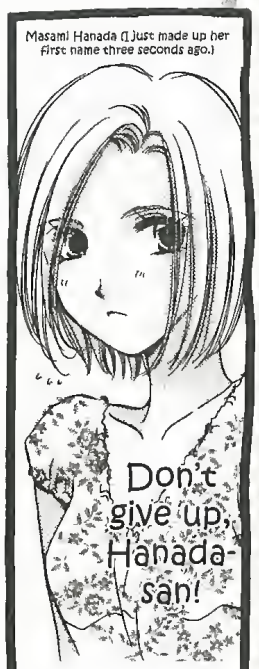
MAYBE SHE WAS HURT...
I can get up earlier each morning
...BECAUSE OF WHO SAID IT, NOT WHAT HE SAID?
M-MUROI...?
I... UM... I-I THINK...
...YOU'RE CUTE JUST THE WAY YOU ARE.
YOUR FACE AND PERSONALITY...
THE WHOLE PACKAGE IS CUTE. HONEST...
Just trails off
HRM?
Hirao-senpai?
I... I SAID IT!!
What?

...I DON'T LET GO. EVER.
...BUT ONCE I'VE GOTTEN SERIOUS...
WHAT THE--?!
N-NO! MUROI, I--
whisper
SORRY, DUDE...
HUH?!
MY... BROTHERS?
He was talking about them...?

DO US BOTH A FAVOR AND GIVE UP.
YOU'VE NEVER BEATEN ME BEFORE. WHAT MAKES YOU THINK YOU CAN NOW?

I'LL GLADLY TELL YOU AGAIN!
AS MANY TIMES AS IT TAKES!
M-MUROI, I THINK--
WOULD YOU... SAY IT AGAIN?
FINALLY !!
UM, HIRAO-SEMPAI...?
bathump
bathump
Who's cute?
WHAT WAS THAT?
FOR ONCE IN MY LIFE, I TOLD A GIRL HOW I FELT!

THEY SURE ARE!
HER LITTLE BROTHERS ARE THE CUTEST KIDS I'VE EVER SEEN.



Out of all the female characters in this manga, I think she's the only one who actually thinks and behaves like a normal shojo manga girl. She's really a great character, she just happens to be surrounded by a bunch of weirdoes and deadbeats. She's normally got her head together, and so hanging around with them really tires the poor girl out.

If she just gave up and turned as crazy as the rest of them, it'd probably make her life easier...

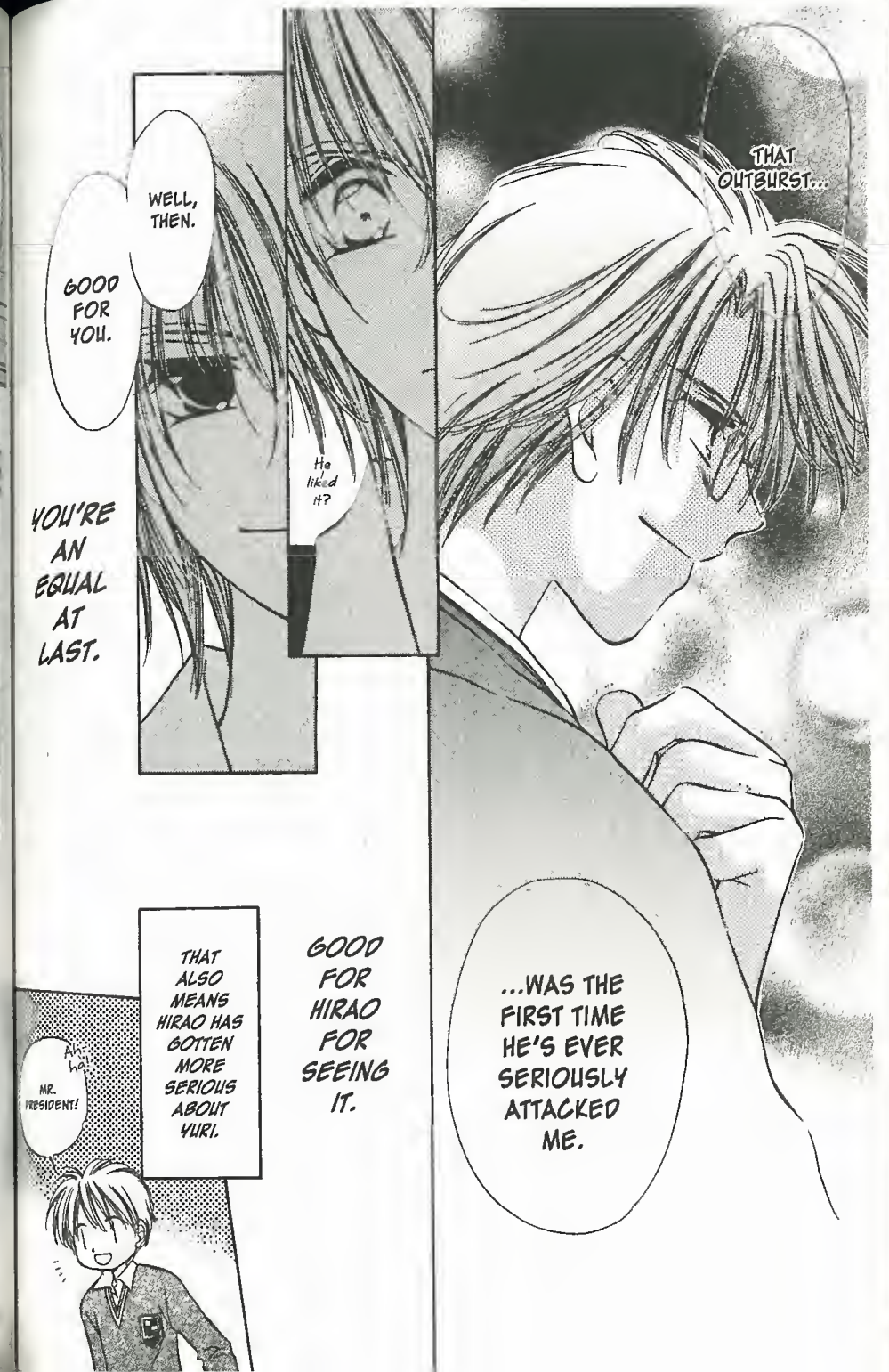
I'm really not good at dealing with serious-and-strict personality types, but I adore serious-but-nice people (now, that's a really childish way of thinking...). I want Hanada-san to turn out more like the latter type.

The end.

DOOOOOM
NOW HE'S ALL GLOOMY AGAIN!
DAMMIT!
FINALLY.
STRAIGHT DOWN HIS HOLE INTO A BLACK DEPRES-SION--
SO ANNOYING!
I NEED TO DITCH THIS LOSER AND GO HAVE FUN.
HE FINALLY SEES ME AS AN ENEMY.
WHAT?

NEVER MIND THAT. WHAT WERE YOU AND HIRAO-SENPAI TALKING ABOUT?
NOTHING. LET'S JUST GO TO THE HAUNTED HOUSE.
Huh?
Right now...?
HEY, YURI, SPEAKING OF... WHERE DID THOSE SQUIRTS GO, ANYWAY?
Home. They were pretty scared.
LATER!
OKAY.

I'LL BE RIGHT THERE.
I THINK IT'S GOING TO GET NASTY.
THERE'S TROUBLE BREWING BETWEEN 3-C AND 3-D. BOTH ARE CLAIMING THE OTHER'S BOOTH INTERFERES WITH THEIR OWN.
They're stressed over college entry exams.
I'VE GOTTA GET BACK TO THE CAFÉ.
STRANGE. I'M GETTING USED TO SEEING HER AS A BOY.
LATER.
CAN'T PEOPLE TELL SHE'S A GIRL?
Maybe she's ready to audit?
A friend of yours?
WHO WAS THAT? HE LOOKED SO COOL!


THAT OUTBURST...
...WAS THE FIRST TIME HE'S EVER SERIOUSLY ATTACKED ME.
He liked it?
WELL, THEN.
GOOD FOR YOU.
YOU'RE AN EQUAL AT LAST.
GOOD FOR HIRAO FOR SEEING IT.
THAT ALSO MEANS HIRAO HAS GOTTEN MORE SERIOUS ABOUT YURI.
Ah, ha!
MR. PRESIDENT!

BATHUMP
BATHUMP
BUT THIS YABE-SENPAI IS A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT PERSON.
HE'S NICE TO EVERYONE, NEVER LETTING HIS FEELINGS SHOW.
I MEAN, YABE-SENPAI IS USUALLY SO CASUAL ABOUT THINGS.
He accepts all, and regrets their leaving.
I LIKE THAT ABOUT HIM.
...HE HASN'T SAID A WORD.
Um...
Sen-pai?
Yabe-sen-pai?
EVER SINCE WE LEFT HIRAO AND KAGURAZAKA...
...CAN I KNOW WHAT HE'S THINKING?
HOW...
DID I DO SOMETHING WRONG?
HE'S ONLY HOLDING MY HAND...BUT IT'S MAKING MY HEART POUND.
SENPAI? WHERE ARE WE GOING?
Faster and faster...
YOU'RE IN CHARGE, WHATEVER THE SITUATION.
I'LL FOLLOW YOU, NO MATTER WHERE YOU TAKE ME.
BECAUSE YOU'RE MY BOYFRIEND, AND I'M YOUR GIRLFRIEND.
Faster and faster...
WE'RE HERE.
GOOD!!
...like serious boyfriend/girlfriend stuff
BLUSH
HE'S SO FORCEFUL. IT FEELS SO...SO...
Usually the forceful one
THE WAY HE'S PULLING ME ALONG...

HO-BOY!
WHAT IDIOT PUT THIS UP? IT'S TOTALLY LOOSE.
ACK!!
IT'S PROBABLY THE HAIR. IT'S INSPIRING A RETURN TO MY OLD DAYS...
...AS A "BAD BOY."
What're you going that way for?
SOMEBODY GO TO THE SHOP ROOM AND GET ME A TOOLBOX!
YO, DUDE! PICK UP YOUR END ALREADY!
UH-OH...
Wha--?!
LOOK OUT!
YEEEEEK!!

THE HAUNTED HOUSE
THE HAUNTED HOUSE.
AAAAH!
WOOO
DAMMIT.
ARGH.
EEEEEK!
SENPAI, YOU NEVER STOP SURPRISING ME.
Eek!!
Rumble
You gotta go through them quick.
STUFF LIKE THIS LOSES ITS SCARE VALUE PRETTY FAST.
CRAP.
THAT JUST SLIPPED OUT.
GAAAH!
PRETTY BOYS DON'T SAY THINGS LIKE THAT!!
I GOTTA GO TO THE POT--
TOO PRETTY!

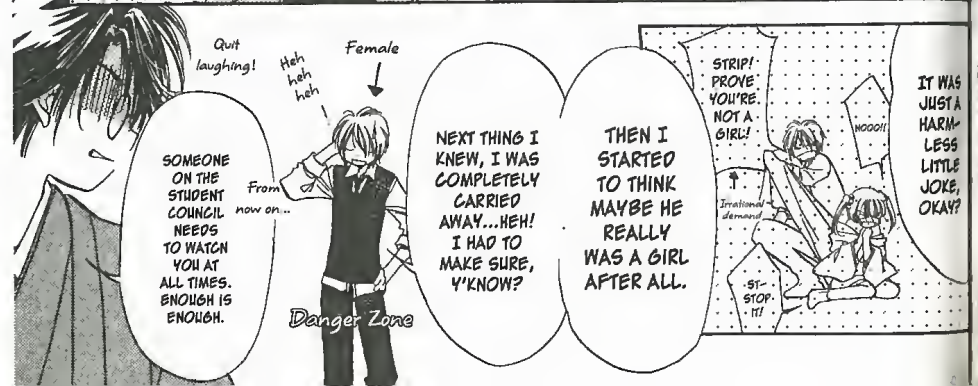
Sekine (a male)
BATHUMP
BATHUMP
BATHUMP
BATHUMP
EEP!
SEKINE...
K-KAGURA-ZAKA-SAN?
PINCH
OW!
KYAAA!!
NOOOO!!
STRIP! NOW!!
THAT POOR GIRL! BEING ATTACKED BY A MASHER IN THE MIDDLE OF THE HALLWAY!
I ALMOST THOUGHT YOU WERE A GIRL. HAD I KNOWN I'D HAVE LET YOU GET SMASHED!
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING IN THAT GOOFBALL GET-UP?!
Sensei!!
GRAB
WHA--?!
MEIRIN HIGH
CULTURE FESTIVAL
KLANG
"SORRY" AIN'T GONNA CUT IT, YOU KLUTZ!
ARE YOU OKAY?
IS ANYTHING BROKE--?
What the...?!
SORRY!
clap clap
clap clap

...WAIT!
THAT GIRL!

THE CULTURAL FESTIVAL THIS YEAR...
...IS OFF THE HOOK!
Sensei! Trouble!!
Oh! Mr. President!
I KNOW! ISN'T IT FUN?
TOTALLY.
WHAT?
There's a pervert loose!
I'M REALLY GLAD WE CAME TOGETHER, KAGAMI-SAN.
YOU SPEND SO MUCH TIME BY YOURSELF, I DIDN'T THINK YOU WOULD.
I have a bad feeling about this.
You handle the seniors.
I'm on it.
Me?!
I'M GLAD YOU INVITED ME, TOO.
Aha ha ha!
WE SHOULD HAVE STARTED HANGING OUT A LOT SOONER.
IF I HAD KNOWN HOW COOL YOU ARE, WE WOULD HAVE.

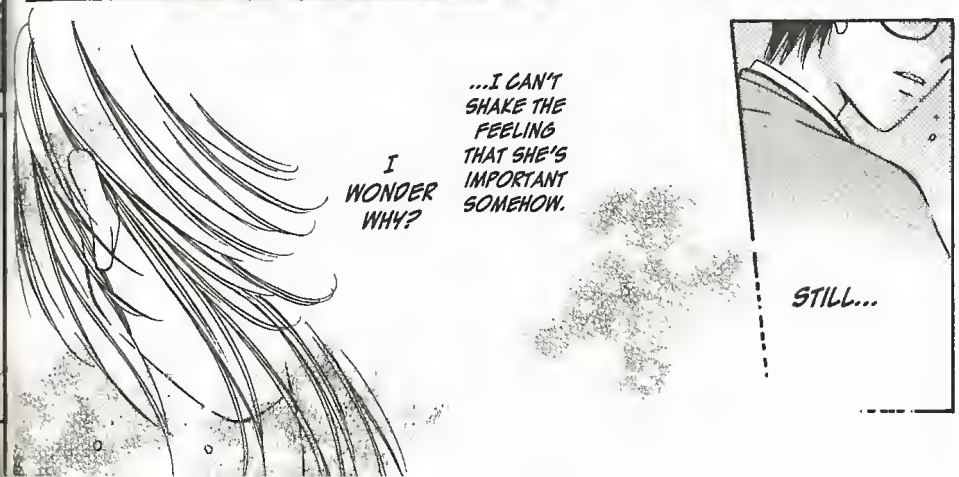
KAGURAZAKI! WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING?!
Crap.
Nooo!
Tedious reminder technically male
...I COULD REMEM--
St-stop it!!!
IF I COULD JUST SIT DOWN...
THAT VOICE?
...AND CONCENTRATE...

THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEAN!
DON'T YOU SEE? HE'S A BOY!
That's Sekine
HAVE YOU TOTALLY LOST YOUR MIND?!
YOU'RE SUCH A SICKO!
THROTTLE


Quit laughing!
Heh heh heh
Female
SOMEONE ON THE STUDENT COUNCIL NEEDS TO WATCH YOU AT ALL TIMES. ENOUGH IS ENOUGH.
From now on...
Danger Zone
NEXT THING I KNEW, I WAS COMPLETELY CARRIED AWAY...HEH! I HAD TO MAKE SURE, Y'KNOW?
THEN I STARTED TO THINK MAYBE HE REALLY WAS A GIRL AFTER ALL.
STRIP! PROVE YOU'RE NOT A GIRL!
NOOO!!
Irrational demand
-ST-STOP IT!
IT WAS JUST A HARMLESS LITTLE JOKE, OKAY?

Hmm...
BUT WHERE?
I KNOW I HAVE.
IT'S ON THE TIP OF MY TONGUE. WHY CAN'T I REMEMBER?
I'VE SEEN HER BEFORE.
The fortune teller's?
Where to next?

I DON'T HAVE TIME FOR THIS KIND OF THING, ANYWAY.
CRAP...
What are you doing?
PRESIDENT HIRAO, HURRY!!


I WONDER WHY?
...I CAN'T SHAKE THE FEELING THAT SHE'S IMPORTANT SOMEHOW.
STILL...

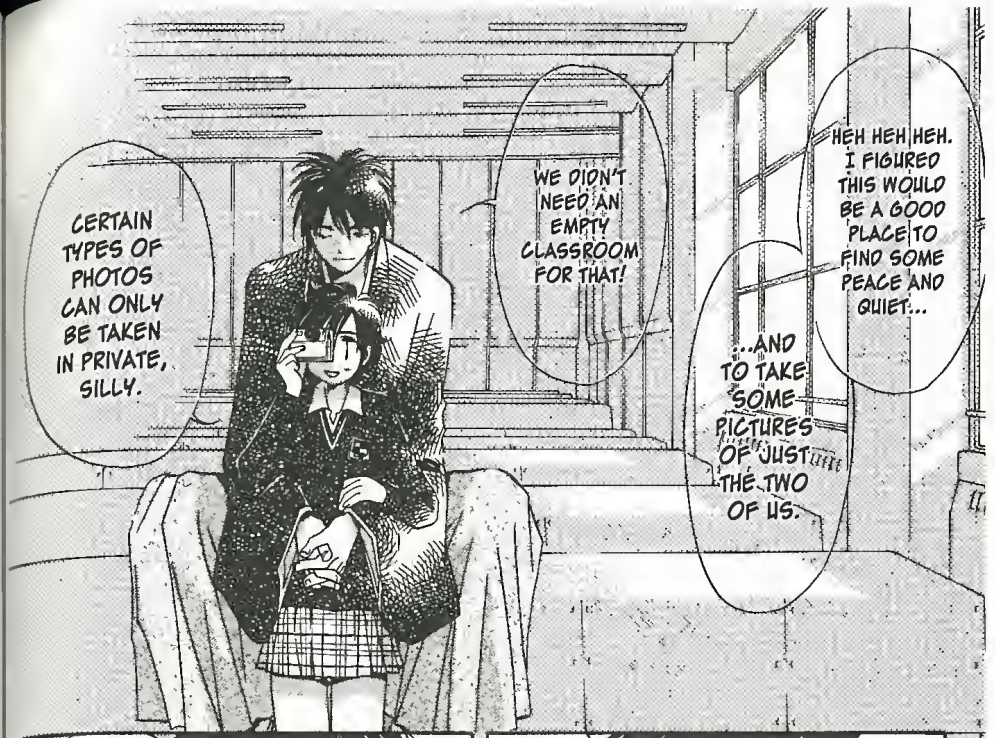
...OF YABE AND KAGURAZAKA...
"EEE! A PICTURE OF YABE-SENPAI!!"
IT WAS THAT PHOTOGRAPH...
...AND...
HER SISTER! HER DEAD SISTER! THAT'S IT!
...SHE'S STOPPED HITTING--
Eek!
I said s, it!
.....
WHAK
...I-I WOULDN'T HAVE MINDED SO MUCH.
IF ONLY WE HAD BEEN ALONE TOGETHER...
Maidenly, but definitely flat-chested.
I-IF...
UM...EX-EXCUSE ME, BUT PLEASE... DON'T BE SO HARD ON KAGURAZAKA-SAN.
WHY IS VIOLENCE YOUR ANSWER TO EVERYTHING?
Waaah
Boo-hoo.
Are you okay, Sekine-kun?
DON'T GROSS ME OUT!
EVER SINCE HER SISTER DIED...
It's a Sekine! There's a slight difference!
THAT'S NOT A GIRL!!
I THOUGHT YOU DIDN'T HIT GIRLS!

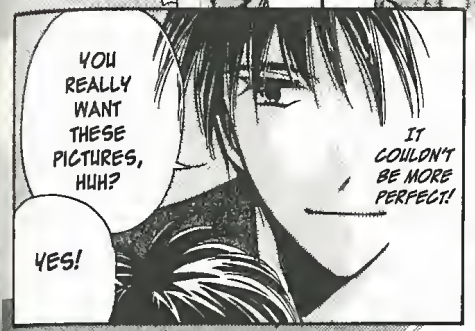
YOUR SISTER.
SHE'S HERE. IN THIS BUILDING. RIGHT NOW.
OKAY, YURI.
WHY DID YOU DRAG ME HERE?

THAT GIRL, THE ONE I THOUGHT I KNEW...
I SAW HER.
... KAGURAZAKA.
OH, MY!
YOU'VE BEEN LYING TO ME... HAVEN'T YOU?
HUH?

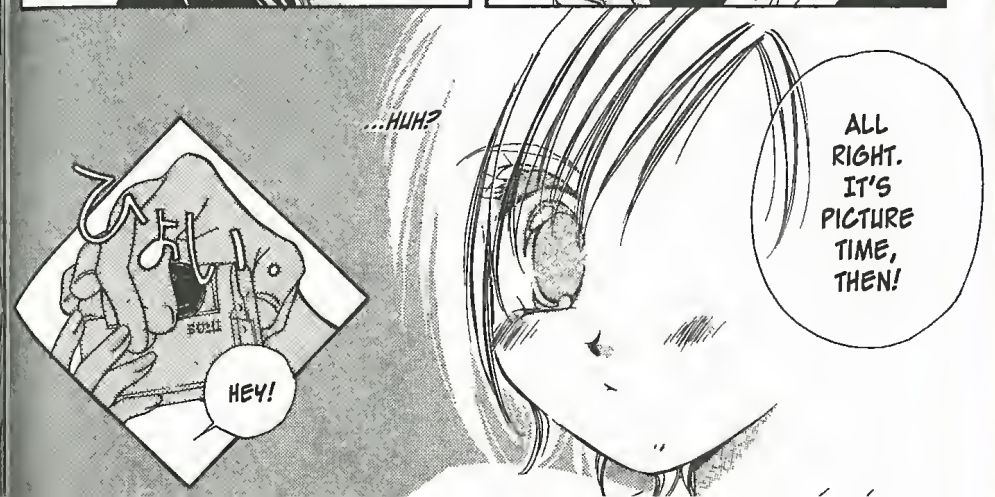
GAAAAH!!!
ERASE IT!! I MUST LOOK HORRIBLE!!
ACK!!
NO! THAT'S NOT FAIR! NO SNEAK ATTACKS!
GIMME A BREAK. YOU'RE ALWAYS CUTE.
Ha ha ha ha ha
SNAP
CHEESE.
WHAT?
WHAT'S WRONG?
FREEEEZE
HN?

...I HAD TO GO UP AGAINST ALL YABE'S OLD GIRLFRIENDS...
ARE...
IF, RIGHT NOW...
DO YOU REALLY LIKE HOW I LOOK IN THE PICTURE?
...I'M CONFIDENT I'D BURY THEM ALL.
...ARE YOU SURE?

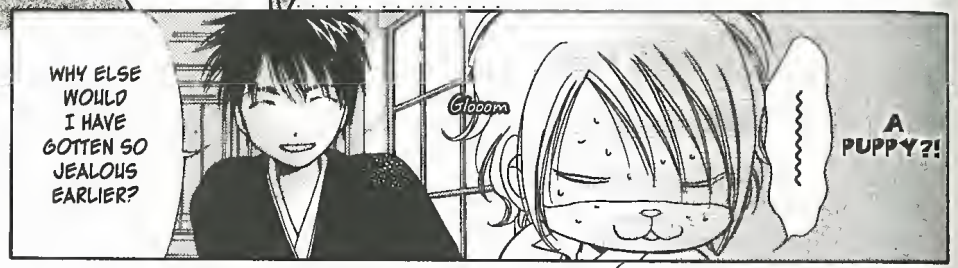

CERTAIN TYPES OF PHOTOS CAN ONLY BE TAKEN IN PRIVATE, SILLY.
WE DIDN'T NEED AN EMPTY CLASSROOM FOR THAT!
HEH HEH HEH. I FIGURED THIS WOULD BE A GOOD PLACE TO FIND SOME PEACE AND QUIET...
...AND TO TAKE SOME PICTURES OF JUST THE TWO OF US.

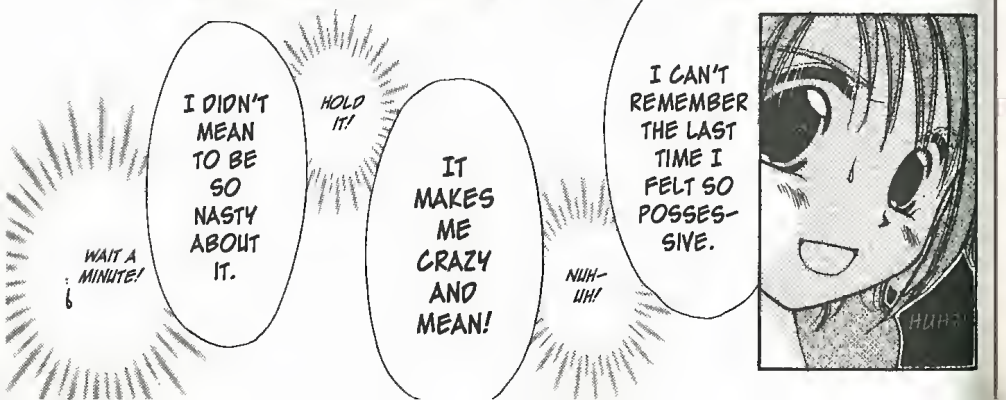

YOU REALLY WANT THESE PICTURES, HUH?
YES!
IT COULDN'T BE MORE PERFECT!

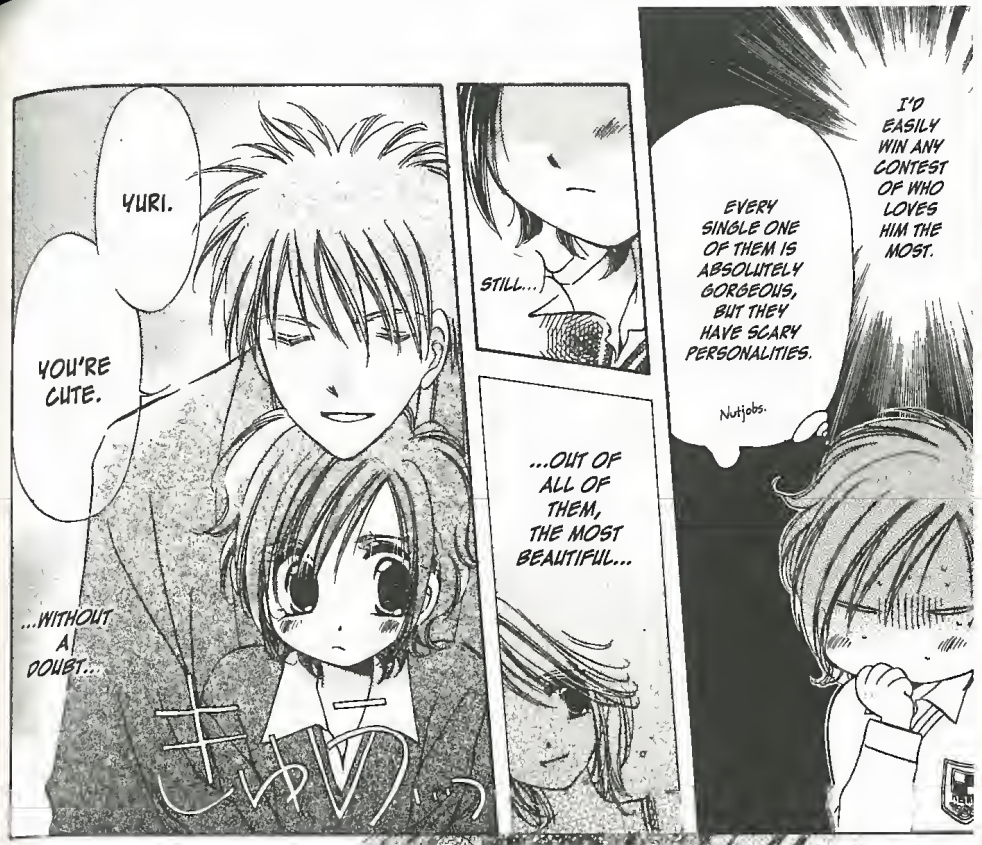
YOU DON'T LIKE PHOTO BOOTHS...
...BUT MAYBE YOU'LL MAKE AN EXCEPTION FOR A REGULAR CAMERA.
EXCELLENT.

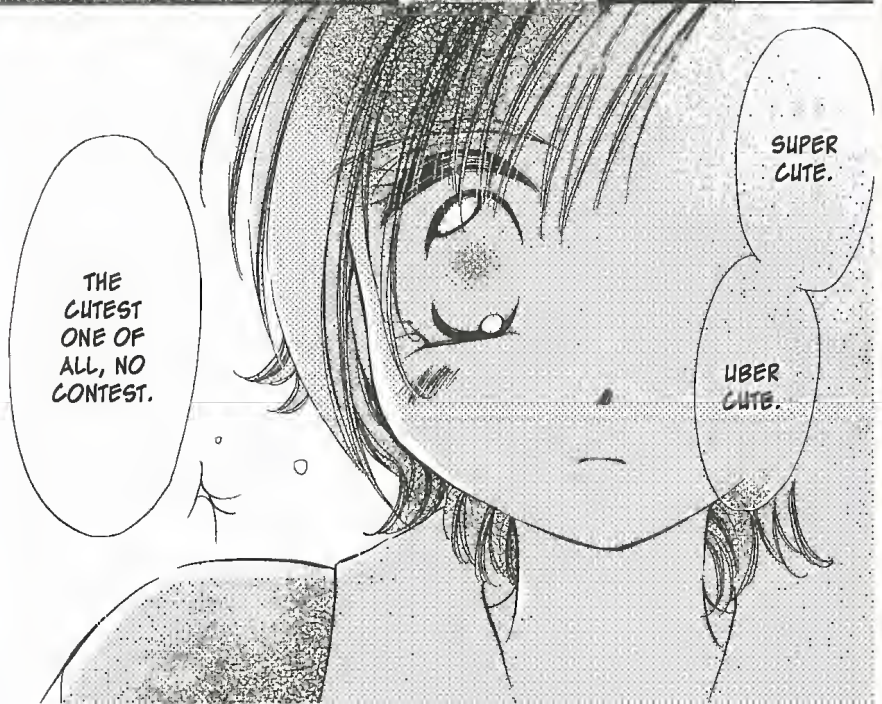

ALL RIGHT. IT'S PICTURE TIME, THEN!
...HUH?
HEY!

I CAN'T BELIEVE IT!
Especially right now.
Ha ha ha ha ha
OF COURSE I DO.
REALLY?!
OUT OF ALL THE GIRLFRIENDS I'VE EVER HAD, YOU'RE THE MOST ADORABLE.
YOU'RE LIKE A PUPPY!
YOU THINK I'M THE CUTEST?
FOR REAL?


WHY ELSE WOULD I HAVE GOTTEN SO JEALOUS EARLIER?
Gloom
A PUPPY?!


WAIT A MINUTE!
I DIDN'T MEAN TO BE SO NASTY ABOUT IT.
HOLD IT!
IT MAKES ME CRAZY AND MEAN!
NUH-UH!
I CAN'T REMEMBER THE LAST TIME I FELT SO POSSESSIVE.
HUH?

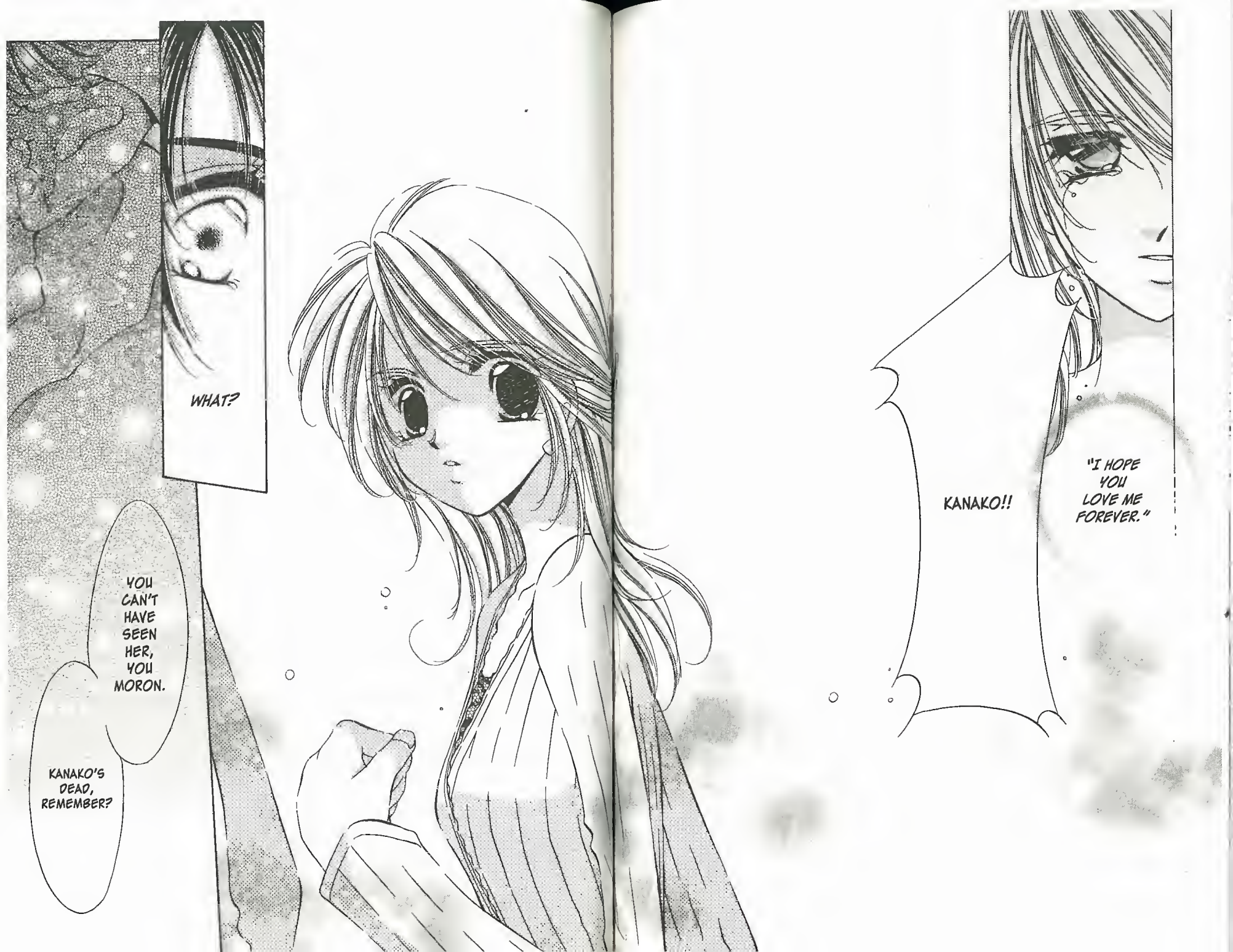

YURI.
YOU'RE CUTE.
...WITHOUT A DOUBT...
STILL...
...OUT OF ALL OF THEM, THE MOST BEAUTIFUL...
I'D EASILY WIN ANY CONTEST OF WHO LOVES HIM THE MOST.
EVERY SINGLE ONE OF THEM IS ABSOLUTELY GORGEOUS, BUT THEY HAVE SCARY PERSONALITIES.
Nutjobs.


THE CUTEST ONE OF ALL, NO CONTEST.
SUPER CUTE.
UBER CUTE.

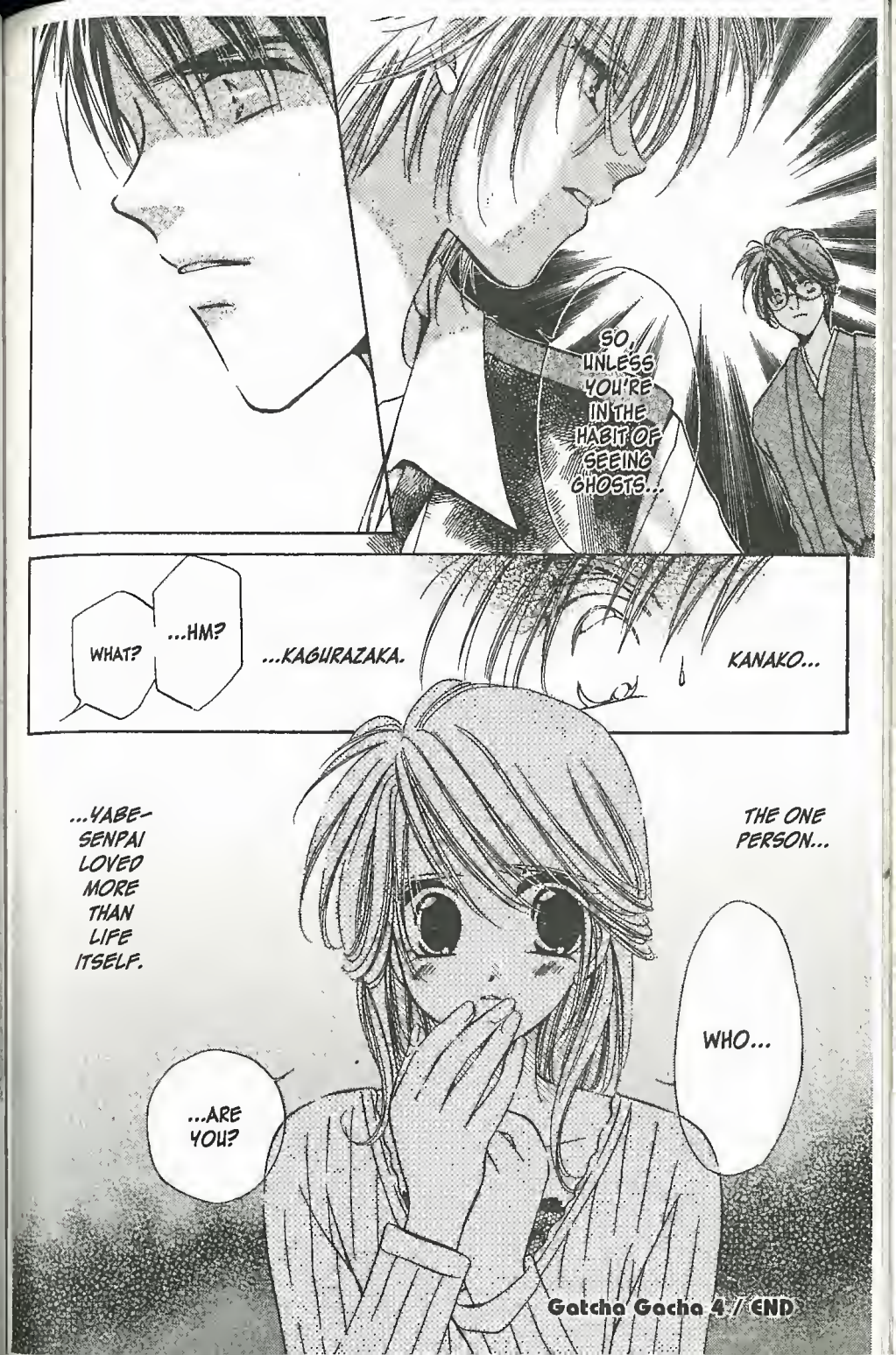
I KNOW. I'M A PATHETIC EXCUSE FOR A HUMAN BEING.
S-SENPAI...?!
WHAT IS HE TALKING ABOUT?
I'LL BE BETTER.
I PROMISE.
DOES THIS MEAN...
...THAT HE'S STARTING TO LOVE ME?
UM...
...SENPAI?
YURI?
CAN I... KISS YOU?
YOU'RE ASKING FOR MY PERMISSION?
YES.
I DON'T WANT TO WAIT AROUND FOR YOU TO ASK ME.
AM I FINDING MY WAY INTO HIS HEART?

Aw, man
--HUH?
WHAT?!
ACK!
OW!
S-SORRY!!
Yikes!
LET'S GO!
SORRY!!
WE'RE SO SORRY! WRONG CLASSROOM!
OOPS! KAGAMI-SAN, I--!
"TAKAHIRO...DO YOU LOVE ME?"

LIKE THERE'S ANY OTHER CHOICE.
THOUGH I FEEL LIKE A TOOL WEARING THIS SAMURAI GET-UP.
I HOPE YOU LEARN TO LOVE ME EVEN MORE.
SENPAI, SHUSH!
I'M TELLING YOU, THIS CAN'T BE THE RIGHT ROOM! THERE'S NO WAY!
BUT...
I CAN'T CONCENTRATE...


WHAT?
YOU CAN'T HAVE SEEN HER, YOU MORON.
KANAKO'S DEAD, REMEMBER?
KANAKO!!
"I HOPE YOU LOVE ME FOREVER."

Gatcha Gacha
Mini-Special
LOOKING BACK ON IT NOW, I THINK IT WAS LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT.
SHE LOOKED LIKE A BOY...
"ARE YOU STUPID OR SOMETHING? IF YOU'RE GOING TO BITE SOMETHING OFF, DON'T CHOMP ON YOUR OWN TONGUE."
"IF YOU'RE ABOUT TO GET RAPED, AND YOU GET THE CHANCE..."
EEE! SEKINE-KUN, YOU LOOK ADORABLE!!
...AND YET SHE VERY MUCH WASN'T.
"...YOU BITE OFF HIS =CENSORED=."


SO, UNLESS YOU'RE IN THE HABIT OF SEEING GHOSTS...
WHAT?
...HM?
...KAGURAZAKA.
KANAKO...
...YABE-SENPAI LOVED MORE THAN LIFE ITSELF.
THE ONE PERSON...
WHO...
...ARE YOU?

Cute guys are better than mean girls
mutter
LOVE OVERCOMES ALL BOUNDARIES... INCLUDING GENDER..
N-NO. I DIDN'T KNOW HE'D TAKE IT SERIOUSLY...
DID YOU REALLY MEAN WHAT I THINK YOU JUST SAID?

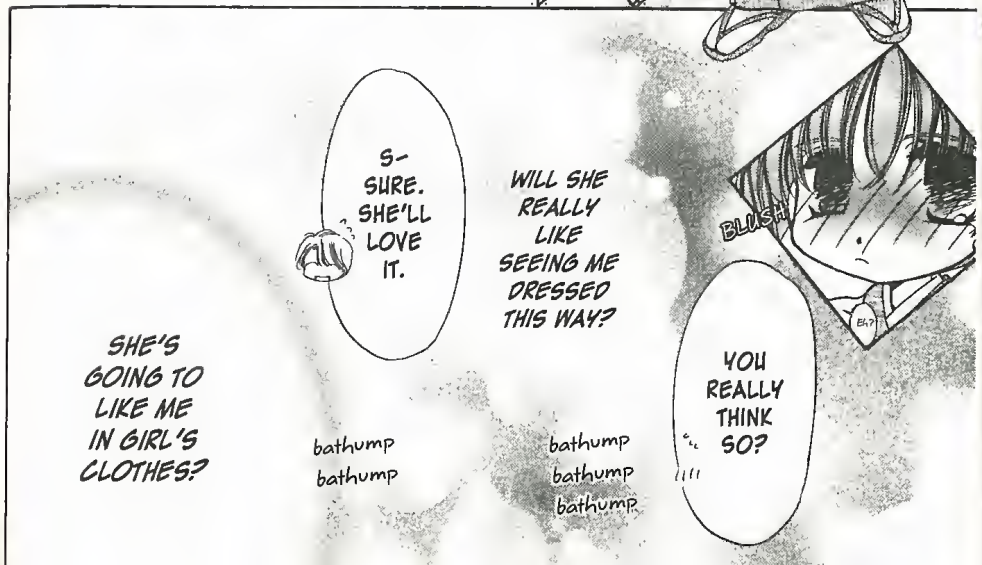
I'LL DO ANYTHING TO MAKE YOU HAPPY. ANYTHING...!

I ONLY WISH I WAS STRONG ENOUGH TO PROTECT YOU. (HECK, YOU USUALLY PROTECT ME!)

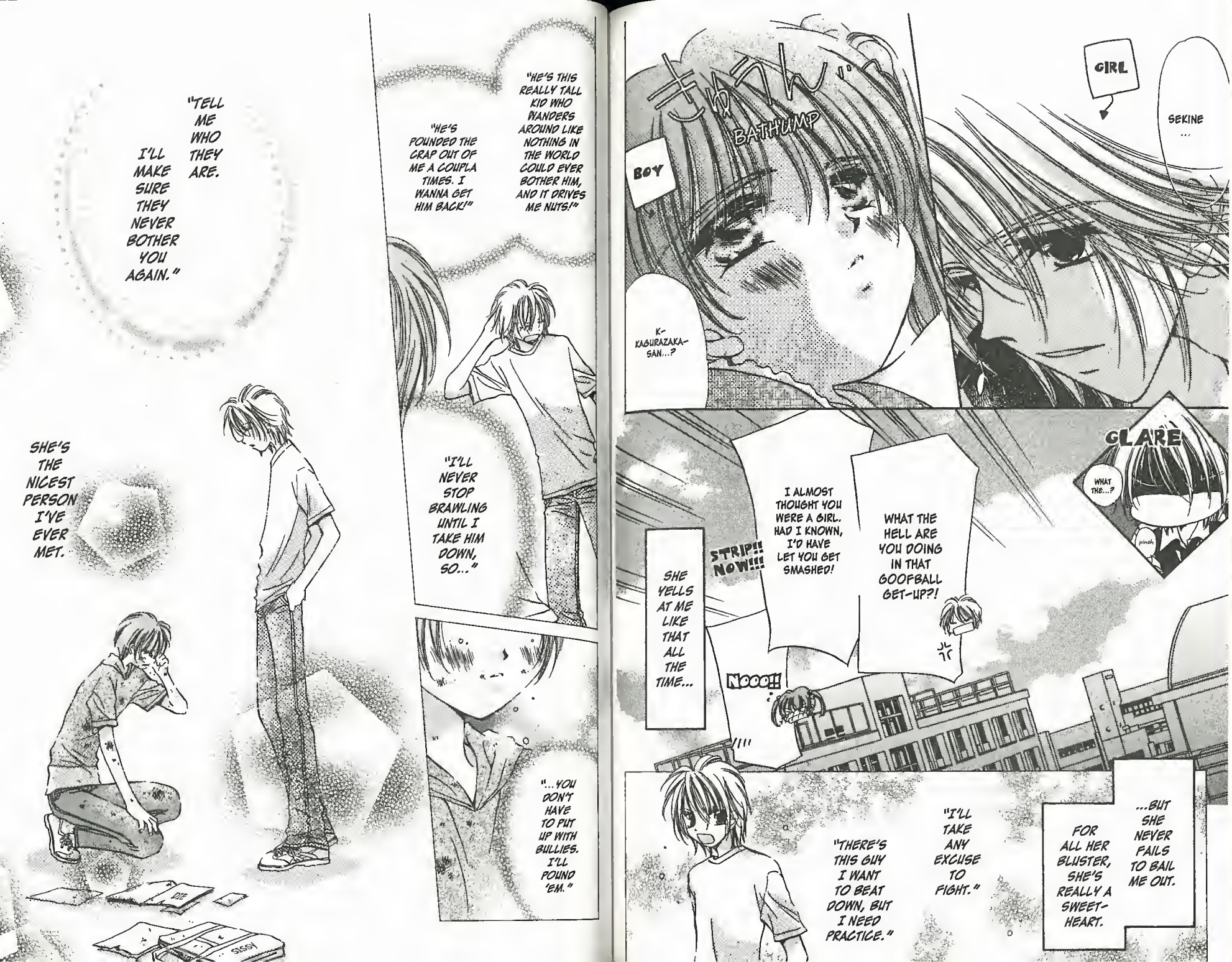
I WANT TO DO EVERYTHING I POSSIBLY CAN FOR YOU.

KAGURAZAKA-SAN...I-I LOVE YOU.

IF KAGURAZAKA-SAN EVER CAUGHT ME LOOKING LIKE THIS, SHE'D TERRORIZE ME!


S-SURE. SHE'LL LOVE IT.
WILL SHE REALLY LIKE SEEING ME DRESSED THIS WAY?
SHE'S GOING TO LIKE ME IN GIRL'S CLOTHES?
bathump bathump
bathump bathump bathump
BLUSH!
Eh?
YOU REALLY THINK SO?

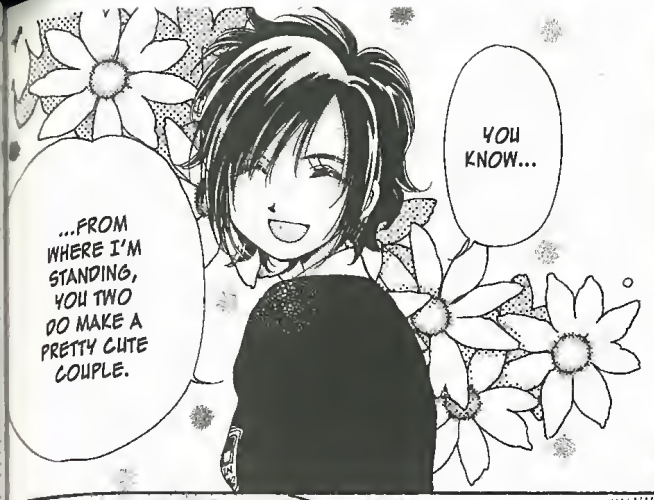
IS ANYTHING BROKE?
KAGURAZAKA-SAN...?
GIRL
OH MY GOSH! KAGURAZAKA-SAN!!
BOY
BA-
I CAN HARDLY BEAR TO LOOK AT HER!
GIRL
BOY
Nnph
SHE'S JUST TOO COOL!
OH MY GOSH, OH MY GOSH! WHAT DO I DO NOW?!
GIRL
WHONG
OW!
Sorry!
HUH? WHAT JUST HAPPENED?
KLANG
THE SIGN FELL... AND THEN...
"SORRY" AIN'T GONNA CUT IT, YOU KLUTZ!
Crap, it's Kagura-zaka.
ARE YOU OKAY?
I'LL BE A GIRL FOR YOU!
No. Please. things are screwed up enough.
LOOK OUT!
YEEEEEK!!!


"TELL ME WHO THEY ARE.
I'LL MAKE SURE THEY NEVER BOTHER YOU AGAIN."
"HE'S THIS REALLY TALL KID WHO WANDERS AROUND LIKE NOTHING IN THE WORLD COULD EVER BOTHER HIM, AND IT DRIVES ME NUTS!"
"HE'S POUNDED THE CRAP OUT OF ME A COUPLA TIMES. I WANNA GET HIM BACK!"
"I'LL NEVER STOP BRAWLING UNTIL I TAKE HIM DOWN, SO..."
"...YOU DON'T HAVE TO PUT UP WITH BULLIES. I'LL POUND 'EM."
SHE'S THE NICEST PERSON I'VE EVER MET.
DIE
SISSY
BATHUMP
BOY
K-KAGURAZAKA-SAN...?
GIRL
SEKINE...
CLARE
WHAT THE...?
pinch
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING IN THAT GOOFBALL GET-UP?!
I ALMOST THOUGHT YOU WERE A GIRL. HAD I KNOWN, I'D HAVE LET YOU GET SMASHED!
STRIP!! NOW!!!
SHE YELLS AT ME LIKE THAT ALL THE TIME...
NOOO!!
!!!
"THERE'S THIS GUY I WANT TO BEAT DOWN, BUT I NEED PRACTICE."
"I'LL TAKE ANY EXCUSE TO FIGHT."
FOR ALL HER BLUSTER, SHE'S REALLY A SWEETHEART.
...BUT SHE NEVER FAILS TO BAIL ME OUT.

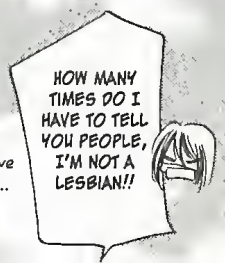
P.S

Tachibana Tells It Like It Is

ROMANTIC COMEDY? SH'YEAH RIGHT. MORE LIKE A COMPLETE TRAINWRECK, IF YOU ASK ME.
LA LA LA LA LA! ROMANTIC COMEDY!!
ROMANTIC COMEDY! ROMANTIC COMEDY!
DANCE DANCE
DANCE DANCE

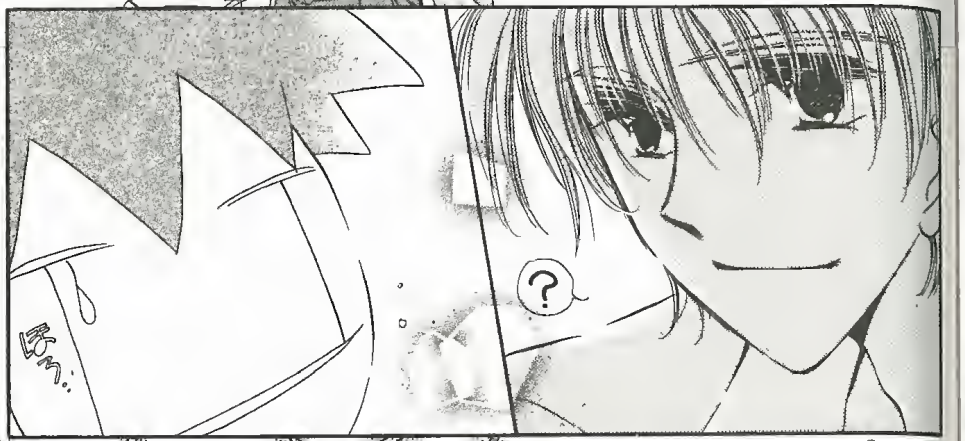


Heh heh heh heh
SOMEBODY THINKS WE'RE CUTE!
THANK YOU, GOD!!
Gross
MAYBE IF WE WERE GAY!
In denial.
AS CUTE AS A COUPLE OF GENDER-SWAPPERS CAN BE!



I THINK I'D REALLY LIKE BEING A GIRL FOR KAGURAZAKA-SAN!

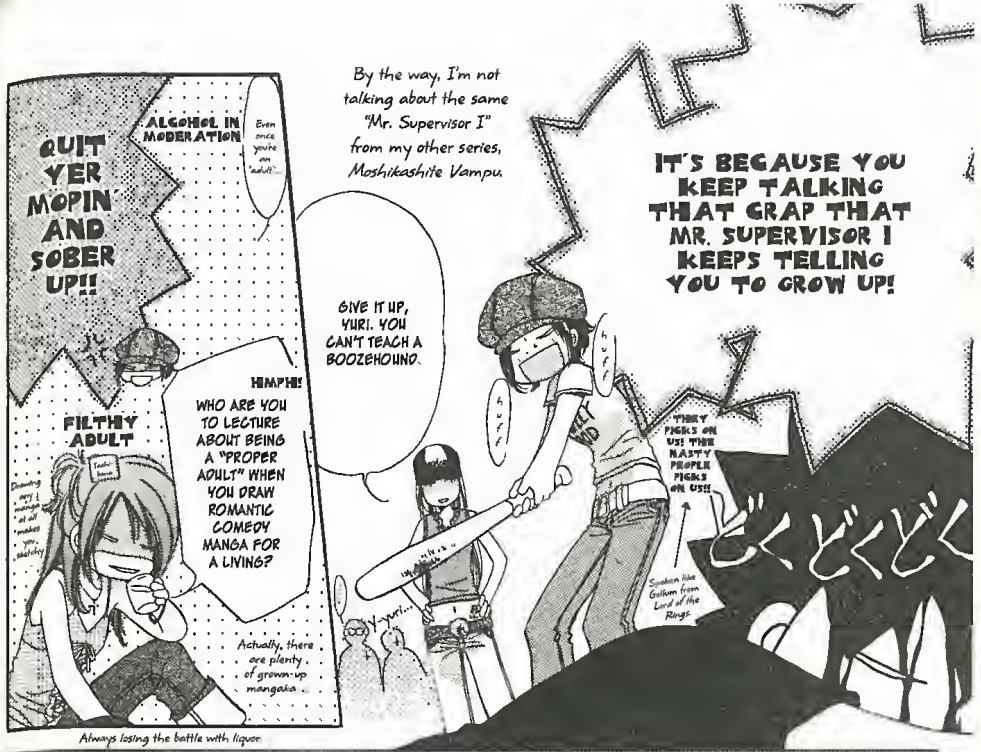
Gatcha Gacha Mini-Special / END



A TEACHER/STUDENT ROMANCE
Oh, I see.
I hate them!
Huh?
YOU'RE SO NICE.
WHAT SAY I FIRE THE MAIN CHARACTERS AND MAKE THE STORY ABOUT YOU AND YAGI-SENPAI?
Kagura-zaka-san!! Don't agree with her!
HOW MANY TIMES ARE YOU GOING TO TELL THE SAME LIES??!!
Next volume: The story of Shinjo-sensei and Yagi-senpai begins. It'll be sort of a Reverse Honey. Don't miss it!!

Tachibana Tells It Like It Is / END

By the way, I'm not talking about the same "Mr. Supervisor I" from my other series, Moshikashite Vampu.


QUIT YER MOPIN AND SOBER UP!!
ALCOHOL IN MODERATION
Even once you're an "adult"...
FILTHY ADULT
Drawing any manga at all makes you adultier
Yeah, how?
HMPH!
WHO ARE YOU TO LECTURE ABOUT BEING A "PROPER ADULT" WHEN YOU DRAW ROMANTIC COMEDY MANGA FOR A LIVING?
Actually, there are plenty of grown-up mangaka.
Always losing the battle with liquor.
GIVE IT UP, YURI. YOU CAN'T TEACH A BOOZEHOUND.
IT'S BECAUSE YOU KEEP TALKING THAT CRAP THAT MR. SUPERVISOR I KEEPS TELLING YOU TO GROW UP!
HUFF
HUFF
THEY PICKS ON US! THE NASTY PEOPLE PICKS ON US!!
Smeagol like Gollum from Lord of the Rings
Y-yuri...

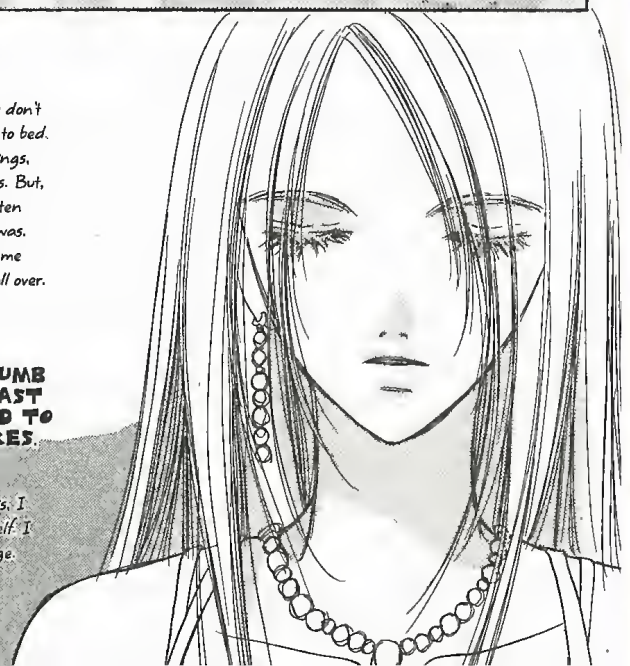
PARDON ME, DEAR READERS. I'M JUST TIRED

Even though I just got back from vacation.

Whenever something happens that I really don't like, my first reaction is to ignore it and go to bed. According to the people who know such things, that's actually a good way of relieving stress. But, sometimes when I wake up, I'll have forgotten exactly what that "something I don't like" was. As a result, I usually end up making the same mistake again and having to deal with it all over.

PEOPLE WHO ARE TOO DUMB TO LEARN FROM THE PAST REALLY ARE CONDEMNED TO REPEAT THEIR MISTAKES.

But, you know, scary as it is, I kinda like that part of myself. I don't think it'll ever change.



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NOW WHAT SHOULD I DO?
KAGAMI-SAN, WHAT'S WRONG?
WHAT? WHAT'S GOING ON?
Who is this girl who looks just like Motoko's older sister?
A new arrival shifts the delicate balance between the four friends.
DON'T SAY IT.
OH.
DO YOU EVEN HAVE THE RIGHT...
HAVE YOU SEEN YURI? I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR HER--
...TO ASK ME SOMETHING LIKE THAT?
...I, TOO...
M-MAYBE...
DON'T SAY IT!
Only the ring finger knows what will happen next...
HEH HEH HEH ...

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